

THE TIMES

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 25, 1983

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THE TIMES Tomorrow

Thirty-six pages
Thirty-six pages of news, sport and features to start the weekend.
Top of the pops
A fizzy guide to bubbly for Christmas
Tick where appropriate
A guide to clocks and watches for your gift list
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Four pages of books for Christmas
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Fulke Walwyn, the Lambourn master bids for his eighth Hennessy Gold Cup, with Everett Michael Phillips reports

Ford faces complete shutdown

Ford Motor Company faces a complete shutdown in the new year as shop stewards urge the company's 44,500 manual workers to reject the 7.5 per cent pay offer next week and strike from January 3. If the strike goes ahead, Ford's 24 plants would remain shut from December 23.

Space doubts

Doubts about the Soviet space programme remain despite the safe return of two cosmonauts who spent 150 days on board Salyut 7.

Medicine on trial

Britain's first scientific trial comparing conventional and alternative medicine could come in the field of back pain, after a feasibility study by the Medical Research Council.

Opera pledge

The Royal Opera House has pledged to cut costs by £600,000 a year if the Government rescues it from its present financial crisis. The company is set to lose £1.4m this year.

Treason term

A young Afrikaner who belongs to the African National Congress and advocates violence to overthrow apartheid, was jailed for 15 years for high treason in Johannesburg.

Glenn's gloom

Senator John Glenn's presidential hopes are on the wane. A film about his life has failed at the box office.

These reports drive a chap to drink...



Divers foiled

British Nuclear Fuels' divers foiled attempts yesterday by Greenpeace to block the under-sea waste pipe from the Sellafield nuclear processing plant in Cumbria.

End of classic

Outstanding debuts have brought the end of the Bob Hope Classic golf tournament, which has been held at Moor Park for the past four years.

Leader page 15
Letters: US missiles in Europe from Mr S. Beglov; rate-capping, from Mr R. Parker-Jervis; Ciskei Abbey, from Mr Nicholas Baker, MP.
Leading articles: Smoking; arms sales to Chile and Argentina; conservation at Greenham Features, pages 12-14
More prisons, more prisoners?; Carmen cavalcade; David Watt sits out TV's nuclear holocaust. Spectrum: the plight of 6,000 boat people. Friday page: problems of a male midwife.
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Andropov hits back with threat of new sea missiles

From Richard Owen, Moscow

President Andropov last night stated categorically that the Geneva talks on medium-range nuclear missiles had broken down and hinted Russia would not return to them or resume its freeze on SS20 deployment unless the United States withdrew its missiles from Europe. He also hinted that Moscow would hit back at Washington by deploying new Soviet missiles which could threaten American territory from "ocean areas and seas".

In a statement read for him on television, Mr Andropov said that from the outset that America had never intended to reach a mutually acceptable agreement at Geneva. Moscow had realized that Washington had "swiftly torpedoed" any chance of an agreement and had therefore decided that "further participation in these talks is impossible".

The Soviet delegation at the talks in Geneva walked out on Wednesday without setting a date for their resumption. Mr Andropov, whose statement was read for him and who did not appear himself, said the Soviet Union had "abrogated" its self-imposed moratorium on the deployment of SS20s in Europe. Western experts say Russia has deployed SS20s through the Geneva talks.

The Soviet leader confirmed that Russia had begun preparations to move tactical nuclear weapons into East Germany and Czechoslovakia, and added that since the stationing of Pershing 2 and cruise in Western Europe increased the nuclear threat to the Soviet Union, "corresponding" Soviet systems would be deployed in ocean areas and seas.

This is taken to be a reference to submarine-launched missiles. Soviet officials have already indicated that Moscow is not prepared to deploy missiles in Cuba for fear of risking a repeat of the 1962 crisis. Since stationing rockets in the Kamchatka peninsula would alarm Japan - although missiles in the Far East could reach the American west coast - submarine-based missiles are the only remaining Soviet option.

Mr Andropov's authoritative statement appeared partly designed to calm rumours about his health and to make clear that he is still in command of Soviet policy despite Kremlin manoeuvring.

He spoke vaguely of "further measures", but said they would be "strictly within the limits dictated by the actions of Nato countries" and would only amount to "what is absolutely necessary to prevent the military balance from being disrupted".

In a passage which leaves the way open for a possible eventual resumption of talks, Mr Andropov said that if the United States and Nato showed a readiness to "return to the situation which existed" before the Nato deployments began the Soviet Union would be prepared to do the same.

He said the Kremlin called on the leaders of America and Western Europe to reconsider and to weigh the full consequences of the deployment of cruise and Pershing, which he said threatened "their own

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Proud moment: Mother Teresa of Calcutta receiving the insignia of the Order of Merit from the Queen yesterday at the presidential palace in Delhi. The 73-year-old founder of the Missionaries of Charity, who spend their lives among the most desperately poor of the world, wore a rumpled grey cardigan and the unmistakable cotton sari with the blue bands that identifies her order (Michael Hamlyn writes). The Queen's pearl earrings, triple row of pearls and diamond brooch twinkled in the photographers' lamps. The Queen said: "This is for the work you have done." Mother Teresa asked after the Queen's children. "And how is the baby?"

Don't throw us to lions, says Kaunda

From Our Foreign Staff, Delhi

African leaders yesterday shattered the tranquillity of the Commonwealth heads of government meeting in Delhi by denouncing Caribbean supporters of the American invasion of Grenada.

Mr Lee Kuan Yew, the Prime Minister of Singapore, said: "The fire crackers have started. The philosophical argument has already dissipated."

President Kaunda of Zambia argued that if the Commonwealth failed to condemn the action, "you will be throwing us to the lions". But the Caribbean countries defended their role, describing the invasion as a rescue mission.

At the suggestion of Mrs Thatcher, the leaders will have an opportunity to cool down and discuss the issue at their weekend retreat in Goa.

In spite of the sharp African attack, officials said the 48-nation summit was likely to issue a moderate statement avoiding outright condemnation of the invasion, while restating support for non-intervention as basic policy.

Mrs Thatcher urged the Commonwealth not to look back in anger but to look forward to the establishment of normality in Grenada. She offered British help for police training and the holding of free elections.

But the African leaders, notably Mr Kaunda, Mr Robert Mugabe, Zimbabwe's Prime Minister, and President Nyerere of Tanzania, feared the invasion might set a precedent and encourage South Africa to take similar action in states near by.

The Commonwealth convention of non-intervention in the internal affairs of a member country had been attacked, eroded and destroyed, Mr

emphasized that he was not prepared to rebuke the six men.

The NGA has said that it will continue what it describes as "mass demonstrations" against the newspaper group until six men dismissed more than five months ago are reinstated. Leaders of print unions in the north-west predicted that even bigger mass pickets than those seen this week will be organized next week.

Speaking to *The Times*, Mr Shah said that he intended to pursue the case through the courts and would eventually bring an action for damages against the union. He goes back to the High Court in Manchester today to make an application to seek leave to issue a writ of sequestration of NGA funds.

"We shall continue to go back to court and use the law until the NGA stops picketing so the I can safeguard my staff," Mr Shah said.

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Rolls-Royce wins £200m Dutch order

From Our Foreign Staff, London

Rolls-Royce, the state-owned aero-engine manufacturer, yesterday secured a £200m order for 100 of its newly-developed Tay engines from Dutch plane-maker Fokker (Andrew Cornallius writes).

The engines will power the new 100-seat Fokker 100 medium range airliner which is due to enter service in 1986. First testing of the Tay engines, which have been developed to succeed the hugely successful Rolls Royce engine, will probably begin next year.

Yesterday Mr Ralph Robins, Rolls-Royce director of civil engines, said the order - which follows an earlier £170m order for 200 Tay engines for the American Gulfstream 4 jet - would help protect more than 20,000 jobs in East Kilbride, where the engine is being developed, and at Derby, where it will be manufactured.

Two other vehicles used in the abduction were discovered at Maynooth, in Co Kildare, where the "lookalike" police car had been burnt out.

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Gunmen kidnap stores chief

From Richard Ford, Dublin

Five armed men, some dressed as policemen, kidnapped a senior executive of one of Ireland's multi-million pound stores empires yesterday as he drove his daughter aged 13 to school in the suburbs of Dublin.

The snatching of Mr Don Tidy, aged 49, came three months after the foiling of an attempt in Co Wicklow by the Provisional IRA to kidnap his chief Mr Gaben Weston, the Canadian millionaire businessman.

As the search for Mr Tidy was concentrated on the border areas last night, Mr Michael Noonan, Minister for Justice in the Irish Republic, described the kidnapping as having "all the hallmarks of a paramilitary operation".

Chief Superintendent Patrick Culligan, in charge of the hunt, could not say if the kidnapping was linked with the abortive abduction of Mr Weston but added: "It was a very professional job. It has all the hallmarks of many of the kidnaps we have had in this country."

He said that he had no reason to fear for the life of Mr Tidy, a widower born in Exeter, south Devon, who has worked in Ireland for 20 years and lives in a luxury house in the foothills of the Dublin mountains. The kidnapping happened only 250 yards from his home.

"We have received no message and the kidnappers have not been in contact, but we expect to hear from them," he added.

The gang, armed with three sub-machine guns and at least two handguns, struck shortly before 8am as Mr Tidy drove with Miss Susan Tidy, his daughter, down a lane towards a main road to Rathfarnham on the outskirts of Dublin.

Close behind was Mr Alistair Tidy, aged 21, his eldest son, in his car. On the main road they were stopped by a police officer standing by a yellow Ford Escort, complete with blue flashing light. When he stopped a sub-machine gun was put to Mr Tidy's head and as the £30,000-a-year store chief was asked to identify himself, he made a desperate attempt to reverse away but the man shouted "don't dare".

Two more men dressed in police uniforms and two others in balaclavas then dashed forward to drag the terrified girl from the car. Then stopped Mr Tidy's son and took his car keys.

Two shots were then fired as a warning to his family before the gang drove off in Mr Tidy's Daimler Sovereign. It was found abandoned less than a mile away.

Two other vehicles used in the abduction were discovered at Maynooth, in Co Kildare, where the "lookalike" police car had been burnt out.

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Follow the Leader



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ARTHUR BELL & SONS LTD., ESTABLISHED 1825 AND STILL AN INDEPENDENT COMPANY

New paper's publication marks breakthrough in typesetting methods

By Mark Russell

Next Tuesday sees the first publication of a newspaper which may alter the whole way papers are run in Britain, and finally allow the widespread introduction of the latest computer technology that the industry desperately needs.

Motorcycling Weekly will be a tabloid newspaper costing 30p, with a print run of 70,000 copies. Its pedigree is old and honourable: the original *Motorcycling Weekly* was bought by Victorian enthusiasts in the late nineteenth century.

The reborn weekly uses the very latest in technology and represents something of a revolution in British printing labour relations. The breakthrough is that its journalists will be inputting their words directly on to computer discs; thereafter the printers will add typesetting instructions before the material is turned into type.

For years newspaper proprietors have tried to introduce direct input by journalists, by which reporters and sub-editors write copy on computer terminals and then use the same terminals to send the finished product directly into a typesetting computer.

For years the move has been totally opposed by the print unions, led by the National Graphical Association, because it would tend to eliminate the need for the traditional printer.

Those newspapers which have gone ahead with computer

technology have had to bow to NGA insistence and allow NGA members to continue setting the type. Journalists use their terminals to write their stories on paper; this is then typed back into the computer by NGA men on separate terminals.

This extra step in the process considerably reduces advantages of speed and low cost which the technology offers. Only one sizeable newspaper has gone the whole hog and introduced direct inputting, but at the cost of alienating members of all unions. The *Nottingham Evening Post*, which defied the NGA five years ago, has since been blacked by the National Union of Journalists.

But *Motorcycling Weekly* has found a compromise unique in British newspapers. The 10 editorial staff type and edit all their own copy on Typecraft Systems Computers and store it on floppy discs.

The NGA inserts the disc and keys in the final typesetting instructions to the computer - the work of seconds. *Motorcycling Weekly* is owned by Coastal Press, whose managing director is Mr Bill Thomson. He said: "I am well aware that I am running into experimental areas. We have a rather unusual arrangement to say the least."

The secret of Mr Thomson's success is that he has worked all along with the NGA rather than

against it, and also that his employees have plenty of work on Coastal Press's many other publishing and printing projects.

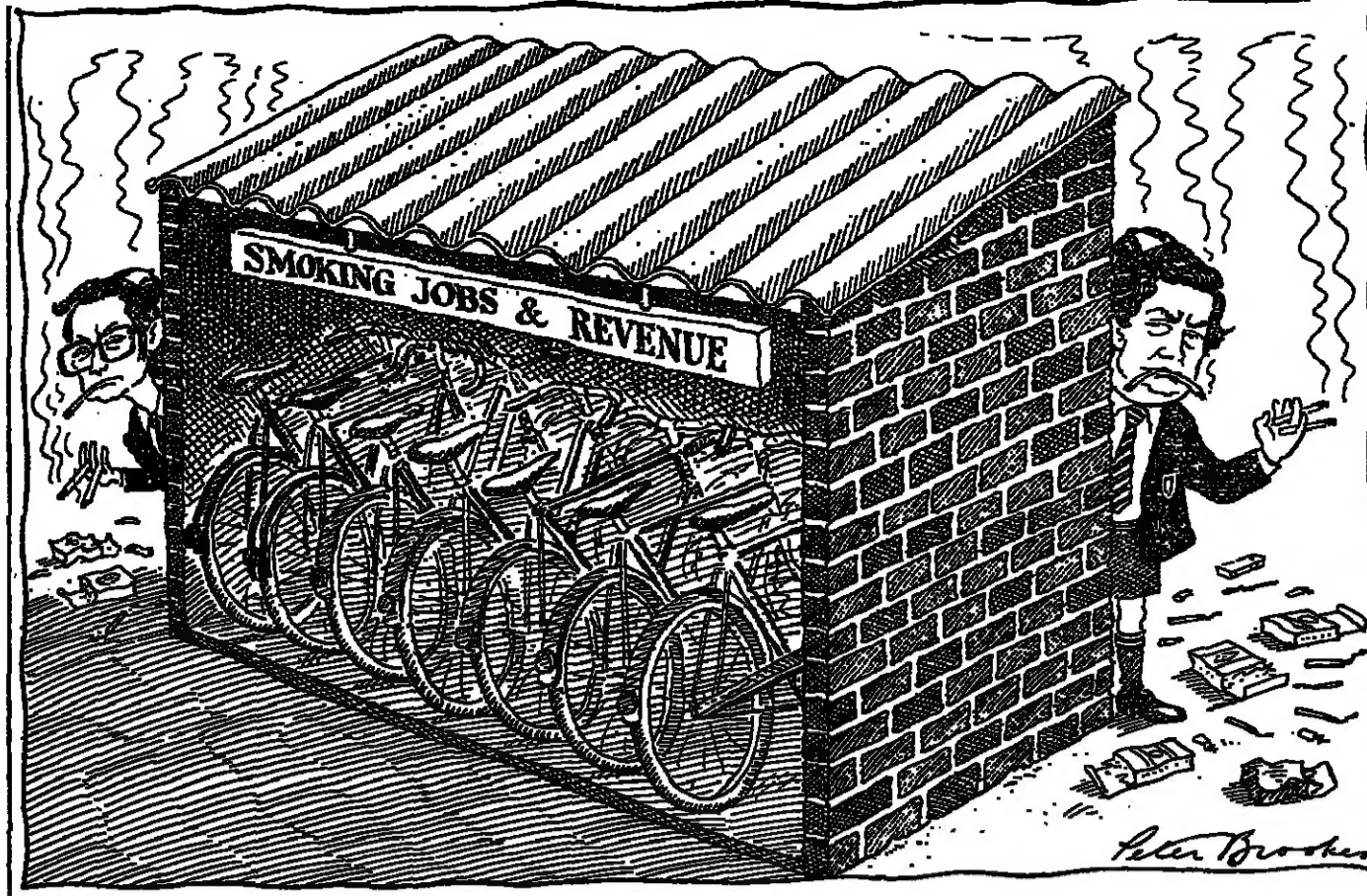
Mr Thomson said: "The union wish to protect their jobs, and there are no union jobs at stake. I am in fact creating NGA jobs and other union jobs. I am not out to use new technology to destroy jobs."

"I have combined new technology - which is all British - to give us the efficiency factors that I believe will make publishing more profitable. It does not matter whether you are talking about a small magazine or a very large newspaper."

The lead shown by *Motorcycling Weekly* has arrived in the nick of time. All the signs are that the newspaper industry in Britain is heading for a showdown.

In June the provincial newspaper industry launched a campaign called Project Breakthrough, aimed at creating the right climate for the negotiated introduction of direct inputting. Behind this, though, many provincial papers have been secretly training members of staff to do other jobs that would allow them to run the newspapers in the event of a strike.

The provincial ultimatum to the NGA was blunt: agree with the principle of introducing full computer technology by the end of 1984, or we publish newspapers without you at all.



Ford threatened by twin disputes

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

A complete shutdown of the Ford Motor Company in the new year was threatened yesterday by senior shop stewards, who will recommend to mass meetings of the company's 44,500 manual workers over the next week that the strike should start on January 3.

The threat from blue collar staff coincides for the first time with a threat of action by white collar staff over the breakdown of talks on fresh pension provisions.

The first indications of whether the strike call to the manual workers will be supported are likely to come on Saturday at Swansea and on Sunday when the 3,500 hourly paid workers from the Halewood transmission and assembly plants on Merseyside have been called to a mass meeting.

Industry sources last night thought that there could be an overall vote for rejection of the company's final 7.5 per cent offer and in favour of a strike. But there is plenty of time for further negotiations.

A strike would mean that Ford's 24 plants would not reopen after the Christmas

holidays, which starts on December 23. Mr Ronald Todd, the union's chief negotiator, said: "If our members want to see advances on shorter working time, pensions and consolidation of supplements, they have to fight for it."

The unions, led by the Transport and General Workers' Union (TGWU) and the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, are not too concerned about the cash element, which gives increases of between £8.25 a week and £13.34.

It has not escaped their notices that, with fringe benefits included, the Vauxhall Motors settlement last month was worth about 8 per cent. Other improvements sought include an extra week's holiday.

The second dispute threat comes from three white collar sections of the unions after the breakdown yesterday of negotiations over pension improvements. The staff unions say they will close Ford's Warley headquarters in Essex, which is also the headquarters of Ford of Europe, so seriously affecting the company's operations on the Continent.

'Fines' on inefficient health authorities

By Nicholas Timmins, Health Service Correspondent

Health authorities that use high-value sites inefficiently for hospitals, clinics and offices will face financial penalties in future under plans circulated to all health authorities yesterday.

The Department of Health is asking all health authorities to review their holding of buildings and lands by next summer and to identify surplus and under-used property for sale so that the money raised can be used to give a better service to patients.

In England alone the National Health Service has more than 50,000 acres of land and 2,000 hospitals and in April this year 3,300 acres were awaiting sale.

In addition, health authorities will have to calculate a notional rent for each building and property based on its rateable value. The rent will not be paid, but it will be used to compare how efficiently health authorities are using land and property.

Where an authority's notional rent is high compared to similar authorities in terms of the service it provides, action would be expected to reduce the notional rent, the circular says.

That would presumably involve better use of the buildings and land, or their sale and provision of the services from cheaper sites.

In due course, the circular says, the system will embrace a financial penalty for authorities that do not reduce excessively high notional rent.

The circular is based on the Ceri Davies report on NHS property published earlier this year. Ministers have opted to introduce a financial penalty despite the fact that the working party which produced the report was not unanimous on the need for such a measure.

Each region is being asked to set up a panel, including private sector experts, to advise on property dealings, and a National Property Advisory group is being set up to advise ministers on estate matters and special problems.

In addition, Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, is being pressed to introduce legislation that will allow health authorities to obtain outline planning permission for land they intend to sell to boost its value.

MP attacks Kinnock job choice

By Our Political Reporter

A left-wing Labour MP is likely to be reported to the Shadow Cabinet after making personal criticisms of his colleagues and describing Mr Neil Kinnock's front-bench appointments as "mainly a settlement of debts and blackmail."

Mr Robert Clay, MP for Sunderland North, wrote in a report to his general management committee earlier this month that Mr Kinnock was surrounded by "unsympathetic spokespersons", partly by choice of the Parliamentary Labour Party and partly by his own choice.

He attacked most of the Labour MPs who took part in a recent Commons debate on shipbuilding as being more interested in being "knowledgeable" and "statesmanlike" than in supporting the workers in the industry.

Lee 'confused'

Bruce Lee, who is appealing against his 1981 conviction for the manslaughter of 26 people in 11 cases of arson, said in evidence at the Court of Appeal yesterday that he was "tired and confused" when he made his confessions to the police.

Police stay cold

Newbury council, Berkshire, has refused permission to Thames Valley police regarding the perimeter fence at Greenham Common air base, to light braziers to keep themselves warm, under new by-laws due to come into force after December 11.

Gerhardt case

The Prime Minister has refused to refer to the Security Commission the case of Commodore Dieter Gerhardt, who is on trial for high treason in connection with spying in South Africa, and who had access to classified information while attending naval engineering courses in Britain between 1956 and 1964.

Abbey rejected

The Government has rejected a plan to offer the eighteenth century Calke Abbey in Derbyshire in lieu of tax to pay death duties of £2m. The trustees had wanted to include in the offer substantial holdings to provide an endowment and source of capital for the future preservation of the Abbey.

Tebbit attacks Telecom unions

By Bill Johnston, Electronics Correspondent

The Government last night launched its first direct attack on the Post Office Engineering Union (POEU) by denying that privatization would automatically mean price increases and accused the union of pursuing its own self-interest.

In his first principal speech outlining policy on telecommunications, Mr Norman Tebbit, secretary of state for Trade and Industry, emphasized that British Telecom was going to be encouraged not just to compete at home but abroad.

The POEU and its policy toward privatization was his principle target. Speaking at the House of Commons to a constituency club, he said: "It is no accident that it is the Post Office Engineering Union

which is fighting so hard to preserve the British Telecom monopoly, for this union, as all unions, is naturally allied to monopoly. I understand a union pleading the case for the industrial monopoly, since this so closely mirrors its own concern to achieve labour monopoly. But I reject entirely the argument which is made that the industrial monopoly is somehow in the consumer interest."

This is the first time the Government has directly responded to the allegations made about the effects of privatization by the POEU. The Government is concerned that not enough is being done to outline its intentions on privatization.

The new Telecommunications Bill which will be law next year, empowers the Government to sell 51 per cent of British Telecom. The sale is due to start in the autumn of next year.

Success for System X

The British digital electronic telephone exchange, System X, has been awarded a £20m contract by Hull City Council. It is the system's first important contract from any group other than British Telecom since its launch four years ago.

GEC-Plessey, the system's manufacturer, will replace the 14 ageing electro-mechanical exchanges in the Hull area.

Market report, page 20
Finance and Industry, page 21

Figures misleading Lawson admits

By Our Political Editor

Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, said yesterday that the conventional presentation of public sector expenditure in government accounts was misleading, and he promised to make it clearer in next year's review.

The Chancellor, in common with his predecessor, Sir Geoffrey Howe, has been repeatedly pressed by his party to ensure that within the constraints of public expenditure there should be a higher proportion going to capital projects.

He said in the Commons that figures in the annual public expenditure White Paper gave a very poor guide to the impact of the public sector on the capital goods industries. It did not include the capital spending of the nationalized industries, running at about £7,000m this year.

Also the figures were expressed net of asset sales, so that sales of public sector housing, at more than £2,000m last year, had to be added.

Mr Lawson said that the figures were also much distorted by the "somewhat eccentric" treatment of the defence accounts.

Mr Lawson said that, considered outside that straitjacket of misleading White Paper definitions, the usual basis for argument, total public sector capital spending, including nationalized industries' investment, rose by 38 per cent between 1978 and 1979 and between 1982 and 1983, from just over £12,000m to nearly £17,000m.

Adjusted to take account of sales of assets, the 1982-83 figure rose to nearly £20,000m. *Parliament, page 4*



Ulster visit: The Duchess of Gloucester, who flew with her husband to Northern Ireland yesterday for a one-day official visit, was seen at the end of the day at the opening of an extension to the building.

The school is one of the biggest rehabilitation centres for physically handicapped children in the United Kingdom.

and immediately embarked on separate programmes. The Duke, who is Colonel Commandant of the Royal Corps of Pioneers, spent the day with the Army.

The Duchess, who was visiting Northern Ireland in her capacity as chief patron of the Women's Caring Trust, was later host at a lunch at Hillsborough Castle, co Down, for trust members. The couple spent six hours in the province before flying home.

Freeze on new homes predicted

By David Walker, Social Policy Correspondent

Councils greeted yesterday's announcement of the latest figures for house building next year with the prediction that the Government will have to freeze all new building of council houses by the middle of next year to avoid breaching cash limits.

The Association of Metropolitan Authorities said that building projects already committed for 1984-85 already topped £2,000m and were in danger of breaching the Treasury's limit. By next April, projects could be well over the target and the Government would have to declare a moratorium on building.

"The effect would be to have in the construction industry", a spokesman said. In allocating the housing investment programme, the Government has tried to steer money towards councils with a heavy commitment to grants for home improvement, to cushion a recently announced reduction in government subsidies for such grants.

Yesterday's announcement by Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, said that housing associations can expect £687m, compared with £690m.

In total, local authorities in England get a net provision for housing and improvement of £1,028m but the Government is assuming that over £2,500m will be spent once councils add their receipts from the sale of council houses.

University 'pay offs' use up funds

By Ngila Crequer, Higher Education Supplement

The pressure of having to pay compensation to thousands of university dons taking early retirement has meant that money for new academic developments has run out.

Sir Peter Swinnerton-Dryer, chairman of the University Grants Committee, has written telling vice-chancellors about the decision.

The letter says: "We shall have no reserve left for distribution either in 1983-84 or 1984-85. As a result, although the committee will honour all eligible claims for redundancy compensation, and for the cost of some part-time engagement of staff, it will not be able to support any new proposals for academic innovation."

Getting the message

If pupils are told that their parents will be informed by letter if they show good progress in English they do better at school, according to research undertaken in Cheshire (Our Education Correspondent writes).

The study, published in the current issue of *Educational Research*, the journal of the National Foundation for Educational Research, shows that simple "behaviour modification" works by increasing academic success. *Educational Research*, Vol 25, No 3, November 1983 (Carfax Publishing Company, PO Box 25, Abingdon, Oxfordshire, OX14 1RW, £4).

Man in the news

By Barrie Clement, Labour Reporter

Mr John Daly, who takes over as general secretary of the National and Local Government Officers' Association tomorrow, is described by fellow trade unionists as "an administrator rather than a class warrior".

Mr Daly, who takes over from a fellow moderate, Mr Geoffrey Drain, sees his reputation for "extreme caution" and conservatism as an exaggeration of his qualities.

"If they say that I do not jump into decisions when there is time to think about them, that is true, but having made the decision I can be fairly persistent."

He takes over the leadership of Britain's largest white collar trade union with its 800,000 members at a time when it faces considerable public concern over its role in leading the confrontation between social workers working in homes for the elderly and children against the employers.

He is described as someone who resists firmly on the right of the Labour Party and who

Nalogo's pragmatist

By Barrie Clement, Labour Reporter

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Pensions at 63 rejected

By Our Social Services Correspondent

The Government has rejected proposals to introduce a common retirement age with full state pension of 63 for both men and women.

But the issue is to be studied by the wide-ranging inquiry into future pension provision announced by Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, on Thursday.

Proposals last year by the House of Commons' Social Services Committee which included gradually bringing together the present retirement ages of 60 for women and 65 for

men would have cost at least £500m a year at 1981/82 prices, the Government said yesterday.

In addition, proposals to introduce flexible retirement, with a reduced pension from the age of 60 but the chance to earn a higher pension by staying at work until 65, would involve heavy transitional costs.

In a White Paper published yesterday in reply to the report the Government said, however, that it "has a good deal of sympathy with the proposals for flexibility and equal treatment for men and women."

Falklands fishing limit

Britain holds back on 200-mile zone

By William Norris

The ocean around the Falkland Islands is full of fish. The hake and the blue whiting, to name but two species, are in abundance. And yet, in spite of urgings by Lord Shackleton, and the Falklands Legislative Council, Britain has yet to declare a 200-mile fishing zone. It relies instead on the old three mile limit, based on the effective range of a nineteenth century cannon.

As a result the area is fished freely, though not intensively, by Poles, Russians, Spaniards, and West Germans.

There is no indigenous fishing industry on the Falklands, mainly because the islanders apparently prefer mutton. In any case, as Lord Shackleton pointed out in his report of September, 1982, a single 50-60ft fishing boat would need to sell £3,500 worth of fish every week locally, to

cover its operating costs; even allowing for the demands of the garrison, that did not, to him, seem a practical proposition.

The declaration of a 200-mile zone, already adopted worldwide by most fishing nations, involves no great legal problem. All that is required is a proclamation by the Falkland Islands' Government, followed by legislation.

The snag is that under present circumstances, permission for the proclamation is needed from the British Secretary of State, and it has not been forthcoming.

Asked the question "why not?" in view of the islanders' expressed wish for a 200-mile limit, which would at least bring them licence fees from foreign factory ships, plus the chance to preserve stocks, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office is reticent.

All its spokesmen will say is that the matter is "under active consideration". It has been that way for some time. Pressed further, the spokesman referred to the statement by Mr Cranley Onslow in the Commons on December 22, 1982. In that, the Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs claimed that the main problem was the cost of establishing a policing arrangement.

He did not wish to see destroyers and frigates deflected from their primary role of maintaining an exclusion zone around the islands.

Mr Onslow assured the House that: "We shall continue to study this question."

There are problems in harvesting the Falklands fish, one of which, though academic at present, is that Argentina has already claimed a 200-mile zone around the islands, as it has

around its own coast 478 miles away.

More serious difficulties arise because hake keeps less well than cod, and supplies of blue whiting are more readily available in the Western Approaches, and the Falklands lack any fish processing plant. The last point is another of those still under consideration.

No direct British participation in the Falklands fishing industry appears to be envisaged. Britain's fleet is equipped for closer fishing grounds, and heavy capital investment would be needed for effective exploitation. A trial scheme mooted by Lord Shackleton does not appear to have aroused interest.

Mr David Taylor, the new chief executive of the Falklands, is due to take up his post on Tuesday. The vexed question of fishing limits is expected to be one of his main priorities.

Sale room

Sir Sidney Nolan buys his house contents

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

Sir Sidney Nolan, the Australian painter, was a busy purchaser yesterday as Sotheby's auctioned off the contents of a Hertfordshire country house called "The Rodd", near Prestige, for the very good reason that he has just bought it. The house had been the home of the late Lord and Lady Rennell of Rodd.

Sir Sidney bought a four-poster bed which combines the best of both worlds with eighteenth century posts and a modern sprung mattress, at £1,540 (estimate £600-£800).

He bought a set of 14 George III mahogany dining chairs at £1,550 (estimate £3,000-£4,000) and the contemporary mahogany dining table with two "D" ends and three leaves, at £1,265 (estimate £2,000-£3,000).

He also invested in big bookcases, spending £8,800 (estimate £2,500-£4,000) on a golden breakfast library bookcase of about 1800. The sale totalled £176,826 with 3 per cent left unsold.

In London, Sotheby's completed their series of four sales of nineteenth century paintings that has made £2,203,894 during three days. The sales of oil paintings averaged about 28 per cent unsold and the watercolour sale contributed £174,779 to the total with only 20 per cent unsold. Yesterday's top price of £14,900 (estimate £10,000-£15,000) was paid for a charming watercolour by the Munich artist Wilhelm von Cobell of soldiers on campaign chatting to a farmer in his cart. It dates from about 1795.

Chess semi-finals seem to favour veterans

By Harry Golombek, Chess Correspondent

The two semi-final matches in the Acorn Computers World Chess Championship Candidates series appear to be going in favour of the veterans.

Garry Kasparov, at 20, less than half his opponent's age, had black against Viktor Korchnoi in the second game of their match. That he was prepared to take risks was shown by the fact that he played the Tarrasch Defence to the Queen's Pawn, a defence which gains free play for Black's pieces at the expense of weakening the basic pawn structure, in particular the Queen's Pawn.

Korchnoi treated the opening in a fluent, brisk style. By the time the middle game was reached, Kasparov had taken about half an hour more than his opponent.

So when, on move 31, Korchnoi offered him a draw, the young grandmaster had little hesitation in accepting. So Korchnoi leads in the match by the score of 1½-½.

The adjourned first game of the match between Vassily Smyslov and Zoltan Ribli was resumed in a position where Smyslov had all the attacking chances.

Smyslov cleverly engineered a position in which Ribli's King was continually threatened by mating attacks. Ribli resigned

the hopeless struggle on the 63th move. So the former world champion Smyslov leads in his match against Ribli by 1-0.

Semi-final			
White Korchnoi, Black Kasparov		Q Gambit Declined Tarrasch Defence	
1 P-Q4	P-Q4	17 Q-R4	Q-R2
2 P-QB3	P-B3	18 P-Q3	P-B3
3 P-B3	P-B3	19 P-Q3	P-B3
4 P-QP	P-QP	20 P-Q4	P-B3
5 N-B5	N-B5	21 Q-R2	P-B3
6 P-QB3	P-B3	22 P-Q3	P-B3
7 N-B2	N-B2	23 N-B3	N-B1
8 Q-Q4	Q-Q4	24 Q-Q4	Q-B7
9 N-B3	N-B3	25 Q-Q4	Q-B7
10 K-P2	K-P2	26 N-B1	N-B4
11 P-QB3	P-B3	27 Q-Q4	Q-B7
12 Q-Q2	Q-Q2	28 P-Q3	P-B3
13 Q-Q2	Q-Q2	29 P-Q3	P-B3
14 Q-Q2	Q-Q2	30 K-R2	K-R2
15 Q-Q2	Q-Q2	31 N-B1	N-B1
16 B-B1	B-B1	32 K-R1	K-R1

First game (continued)
White Smyslov, Black Ribli
Q.P. Queen's Indian Defence

41 P-R4	R1-QB1	54 R-B5	R-Q2
42 P-R5	P-B5	55 R-B5	R-Q2
43 P-R6	P-B5	56 R-B5	R-Q2
44 P-R7	P-B5	57 R-B5	R-Q2
45 P-R8	P-B5	58 R-B5	R-Q2
46 P-R9	P-B5	59 R-B5	R-Q2
47 P-R10	P-B5	60 R-B5	R-Q2
48 P-R11	P-B5	61 R-B5	R-Q2
49 P-R12	P-B5	62 R-B5	R-Q2
50 P-R13	P-B5	63 R-B5	R-Q2
51 P-R14	P-B5	64 R-B5	R-Q2
52 P-R15	P-B5	65 R-B5	R-Q2
53 P-R16	P-B5	66 R-B5	R-Q2

Overseas selling prices
Australia: £1.20; Canada: £1.20; Hong Kong: £1.20; India: £1.20; Japan: £1.20; New Zealand: £1.20; Singapore: £1.20; South Africa: £1.20; Sweden: £1.20; Switzerland: £1.20; Taiwan: £1.20; Thailand: £1.20; USA: £1.20; West Germany: £1.20

Back pain test for first comparison of orthodox and alternative medicine

By Clive Cookson

A full scientific comparison between conventional and alternative medicine may follow a feasibility study under way at a Medical Research Council unit. It would be Britain's first scientific trial of alternative practice against orthodox medicine, according to a council spokesman.

The subject chosen is back pain, one of the most widespread health problems, which is estimated to cost Britain 13 million working days a year, or £1,000m worth of industrial production.

The MRC Epidemiology and Medical Care Unit at Northwick Park Hospital, Middlesex, has almost completed a study to prepare for the proposed national trial, which would involve hundreds of back patients at centres throughout the country. It might start two years from now.

In the preliminary study, 50 patients are being allocated at random either to Northwick

Chairman of BBC back after illness

Mr Stuart Young, aged 49, will perform his first public engagement as chairman of the BBC on Monday after a serious illness, which at one time led to speculation that he might be forced to give up the job he took over in August.

A BBC aide at Broadcasting House said last night: "Mr Young was very ill but he is now firmly back in his seat with a good deal of vigor." The illness, which led to an operation, has been an open secret within the broadcasting world for several weeks. Sir William Rees-Mogg, Mr Young's deputy, has been taking his place during his absence.

Champion children receive awards

Andrew Atkinson, aged 13, has no problem playing snooker, his favourite game. "I just take off my right arm and rest the cue on my stump," he says. Despite having no legs and an artificial arm, he is snooker champion of his school, Bridge House, in Leeds.

Yesterday he was one of 12 "champion children" who received an award from Princess Margaret at a ceremony organized by Dr Barnardo's in London.

Richard Howard, aged 15, from Sheffield, won an award for his bravery in rescuing a

Cabin crew may test jet lag pill

A hormone which may counteract the effects of jet lag, the hormone of long-distance air travellers, may be offered to volunteers among British Airways staff.

The move is dependent on the Committee on Safety of Medicines granting permission to researchers to carry out clinical tests on the hormone, melatonin. Experiments in Britain and Australia have induced sheep to conceive in their non-breeding season by "fooling" them that the days were shortening.

The hormone in pill form has been tried among researchers during long flights, and Dr Frank Preston, medical director of British Airways, acknowledged yesterday that he was "cautiously interested" in asking for cabin crew volunteers.

But both he and Dr Josephine Arendt, a leading melatonin researcher at Surrey University, emphasized that there have been no controlled tests on the effects of the hormone on humans.

Dr Arendt said: "A number of people including myself have tried melatonin on long flights and have not suffered jet lag, but these results are scientifically useless. To substantiate its effectiveness, it would be necessary to conduct control trials."

She added: "I believe melatonin is potentially useful in organizing daily rhythm disturbances, of which jet lag is one example."

Melatonin is released from the brain's pineal gland during darkness.

Doctor 'had three mistresses'

A general practitioner took a series of three mistresses who were patients at his practice in Reading, Berkshire, the General Medical Council disciplinary committee was told yesterday.

His pursuits caused the break-up of his two marriages and destroyed the marriage of his part-time receptionist, his third lover, the committee was told.

Dr David Corden, of Wilders Road, Earley, was appearing before the committee accused of serious professional misconduct. According to the allegation he abused his professional position "in order to form or pursue emotional or sexual relationships" with the women.

Stephens bail plea adjourned

Sue Stephens, aged 26, the former girl friend of David Martin, the convicted gunman, had her High Court plea for bail and leave to appeal against a six months sentence adjourned yesterday.

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Safe aerosol

An aerosol propelled by compressed air rather than liquefied gas, which has been developed in Switzerland and is neither harmful to the environment nor inflammable, was launched in London yesterday.

Fitness checks

The Perkins diesel engine company has bought an electrocardiogram and is offering heart checks and advice to its 6,000 staff at Peterborough, Cambs, to ensure that they are fit for work.

Forest protest

Nearly 1,000 signatures have been collected Ashdown Forest, Sussex, against oil drilling in the East Sussex forest and they will be presented at a public meeting on December 7.

Jubilee plaque

A plaque commemorating the Queen's Silver Jubilee is to be unveiled at Huggan, near Gloucester, tomorrow - six years late.

Hovercraft backup for Severn Bridge

Over the bridge because of heavier than predicted traffic levels, there has been deep concern in Wales over the reliability of its main southern link with England.

Last week Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for Transport, announced new restrictions on the bridge to alleviate the danger of overloading, including possible closure of the bridge in high wind or because of traffic jams. If the bridge is closed, traffic faces a 50-mile diversion.

Each hovercraft would be able to carry up to 35 cars, or a combination of coaches and cars, up to a total of 3,500 a day, a tenth of the number crossing the bridge.

Since structural doubts arose



Gala time: Elizabeth Emanuel fitting Nicola Davies in one of the costumes she designed for the 30 Royal Ballet School students, aged 10 to 18, who take part in the Amnesty International gala concert on Sunday at the Theatre Royal, London. (Photograph: Chris Harris).

The cost of cultural heritage

Royal Opera House to tighten its belt

By David Hewson, Arts Correspondent

The Royal Opera House will commit itself to making cost savings of £600,000 a year if the Government rescues it from its present financial predicament, Sir Claus Moser, chairman of the board of directors, said yesterday.

The savings were outlined in the Priestley report commissioned by the Government to look into the workings of Covent Garden and the Royal Shakespeare Company.

Yesterday's indication from the company that it was willing to accept most of Priestley's recommendations paves the way for the Government to produce new funds to wipe out its debts.

The company had a deficit of more than £1m last year, reduced to £220,000 by bringing forward Arts Council Grants and a supplementary grant of £450,000, and is heading for losses of £1.4m in the present financial year.

Sir Claus said that if the Government came up with proper funding for the organization it would "balance the books".

"We have undertaken to try to find the savings asked for

from 1986," he added. Although the company would attempt to negotiate new agreements with the theatrical unions, the main saving would come from introducing a new management structure.

The company was reluctant to enter into details of the negotiations it wanted to press with its unions. The Priestley report had disclosed that stage technicians and electricians earned a basic guaranteed weekly wage of about £135 which, with overtime, was frequently increased to more than £235 and occasionally to between £500 and £550.

One aspect of the report which Covent Garden rejected, however, was the suggestion that its finances could be improved by running a more popular diet of material.

Sir John Tooley, the company's director general, said that there was no indication that the public would respond to more performances of the same opera, or that the policy would bring in additional revenues. Sir Claus said that such a policy would be "artistic death" to the house.

Fund which helped save Belton needs £10m

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

The National Heritage Memorial Fund, which two months ago agreed to provide £8m to help save Belton House, the outstanding Restoration state home in Lincolnshire, for the nation, needs £10m in its next annual grant from the Government to continue its work effectively, Lord Charles, chairman of the fund, said yesterday.

The fund, set up in 1980, has received an annual grant of £3m for the last three years.

Apart from Belton, one of the fund's main achievements has been to provide £2m for the National Trust for the purchase of Studley Royal, North Yorkshire.

National Heritage Memorial Fund, Annual Report 1982-83. Church House, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BL. £2.50.

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Bearing arms: Two of a set of four stamps to be issued on January 17 to mark the 500th anniversary of the College of Arms which received its charter from Richard III in 1484.

The 16p stamp (left), shows the arms of the college and the 20p of the arms of Richard III. The arms of Earl Marshal are on the 28p stamp and those of the City of London are on the 31p stamp. All were designed by Mr. Jeffery Matthews of Beckenham, Kent.

over the bridge because of heavier than predicted traffic levels, there has been deep concern in Wales over the reliability of its main southern link with England.

Last week Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for Transport, announced new restrictions on the bridge to alleviate the danger of overloading, including possible closure of the bridge in high wind or because of traffic jams. If the bridge is closed, traffic faces a 50-mile diversion.

Each hovercraft would be able to carry up to 35 cars, or a combination of coaches and cars, up to a total of 3,500 a day, a tenth of the number crossing the bridge.

At a total cost of £4m to £5m a year the economic fare would be about £4 a car, compared with a 20p bridge toll, soon to be raised to 50p if a public inquiry agrees.

It would be up to the Government to subsidize the hovercraft fare. "We have been evaluating the service and there are no firm proposals", the Department of Transport said yesterday.

Mr John Cumberland, managing director of Hoverspeed said: "The hovercraft's amphibious qualities mean that it would not suffer the high tide range in the Severn, and little investment in shore installations would be needed."

PARLIAMENT November 24 1983

Lawson repeats determination to cut taxes

THE ECONOMY

Taxation would be lower at the end of this Parliament than it was at present, Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, declared during Commons questions. Twice during exchanges about the recovery of the domestic economy, Mr Lawson said the Government was determined to reduce taxation "during the lifetime of this Parliament".

He stated that over the two years from the first half of 1981 to the first half of 1983 the economy had grown by 5 per cent. With world trade declining over this period, growth had been entirely due to a sharp recovery in domestic demand.

Fixed investment over the same period had risen by 7 per cent and for 1984 the Government expected an increase of 4 per cent compared with a growth in the economy as a whole of 3 per cent.

Mr Anthony Bingham-Dark (South Thanet) said that what was needed to keep domestic demand fuelled was lower taxation. Any talk, he said, of increased taxation would act like frost on a tender plant, killing off the vitality needed growth in the economy.

Mr Lawson: What we need most of all is sound fiscal and monetary policy which will lead to downward pressure on interest rates and continued low, and of possible lower, inflation.

It is lower inflation that has caused the recovery we have seen so far. Of course the Government is determined to keep inflation low in the lifetime of this Parliament.

Mr Michael Brown (Brigg and Cleethorpes, C) said that by the end of this Parliament the net burden of taxation will be lower than at the present time.

Mr Lawson: It is the Government's first intention that taxation will be lower at the end of this Parliament than at the present time.

Mr Robert Sheldon (Ashton-under-Lyne, Lab) said that the extra savings we are getting from the removal of restrictions on hire purchase and also the reduction in the savings rate. How long does he expect this effect to continue?

Mr Lawson: He is wrong in attributing any great impetus, although it has some effect, to the abolition of hire purchase control. A much bigger cause has been the decline in the savings rate.

With inflation going down, people have to save less in order to make sure the value of the savings is ensured. That is one of the direct ways that falling inflation leads to recovery.

Mr John Stokes (Halesowen and Stourbridge, C) said that if recovery is to be maintained, it is essential that British manufacturing increases its share of the home economy.

Mr Lawson: He is right. The fortunes of the economy as a whole

depend critically upon British industry being efficient in the home market and overseas.

Dr Oonagh McDonald, an Opposition spokeswoman on economic and Treasury affairs, said that Mr Lawson was going to compensate for the drop in domestic demand caused next April by changes in the housing benefit. This could lead to a drop of 9.6 per cent in the take-home pay of a single person earning £90 a week and 9.3 per cent for a married man with two children under 17 earning £120 a week.

Mr Lawson: I am confident there will be further growth in the economy next year. The Industry Act forecast of 3 per cent takes full account of the change in housing benefit. Even as a result of the change some 6.5 million households in the land will be taking advantage of the housing benefit scheme.

● The action of the Ford workers in rejecting a management pay offer of 7.5 per cent was likely to damage only themselves and their families, Mr Lawson, the Chancellor, said during exchanges.

Mr Andrew Mackay (Berkshire East, C), told in an answer that the retail price index for the 12 months to October 1983 had increased by 5 per cent, asked: Would he agree that the best way of protecting the interests of pensioners would be for the Government to continue vigorously to bring about measures which will fight inflation and this is likely to be harmed by irresponsible action by unions like Ford in turning down the generous pay offer of 7.5 per cent?

Mr Lawson: I suspect that the activities of the workers at Ford are capable in the long run and maybe even in the short run, of damaging only themselves and their families.

The Government is determined to continue to keep inflation low and to be harmed by irresponsible action by unions like Ford in turning down the generous pay offer of 7.5 per cent?

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Mackay: Irresponsible Ford unions

he attaches to the level of interest rates. Indeed, it is one reason why we are determined to keep PSBR firmly under control and as a declining proportion of GDP. That is the only sure way of bringing interest rates down.

Mr John Mackay (Glasgow, Cathcart, Lab) An export-led recovery demands that civil engineering and engineering companies who are major exporters, require a large amount of public investment in the home economy, providing them with the home base they must have in order to compete successfully in foreign markets.

Mr Lawson: British civil engineering companies have in the past few years done particularly well in export markets. What is important to them is the strength of the world recovery that is coming through quite strongly.

Mr Lawson: I look for a much better performance in exports next year because world trade will rise by about 5 per cent while this year there was a fall of about 1 per cent.

Mr Nicholas Budgen (Wolverhampton South West, C) asked: Is not the Government's most urgent priority to find more ways to reduce taxation upon those who earn less than the average wage?

Mr Peter Rees, Chief Secretary to the Treasury: I myself have made it clear, as has the Chancellor, that when he finds himself in a position to reduce direct taxation the increase in thresholds of income tax should have our highest priority.

Mr Barney Hayhoe, Minister of State, Treasury, said the Government gave a high priority to an increase in tax thresholds.

Mr Lawson: I share the importance

of seeking to the Dispatch Box in the absence of Mr Kinnock.

I am certain that in many quarters of the House there will be a widespread welcome for one reason above all others the Secretary of State made when he said: "The build-up of Soviet military power has grown worse and met with an inadequate western response."

He spoke with a voice which finds fewer and fewer echoes on Labour benches.

Mr Hattersley: I am sure that the plain man we know Mr Biffen be understands that there is a serious question about collective responsibility. Does each Cabinet minister speak for himself or does each Cabinet minister speak for the Government?

Mr Biffen: I have the disappointing advantage of being the first to speak and it is utterly within the terms of collective responsibility, tightly drawn as they are for this administration.

Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Social Security (Age of Retirement) Bill, second reading.

House of Lords

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EXPENDITURE

The Government was not proposing to change its strategy, Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, declared in opening the Commons debate on the Autumn Statement he had delivered last week. He contended that the Government had kept its word despite the talk of hidden manifestos and savage cuts.

He considered the sight of the Government sticking to its policy and its word had caused consternation in some quarters. Critics had been disappointed, he said, as they had been unable to accuse the Government of fudging the figures.

Mr Roy Hattersley, chief Opposition spokesman on Treasury and economic affairs, said that every objective and independent survey in the country, every forecaster, was saying that the Chancellor was over-optimistic in his prediction for the economy. He said the Chancellor had not the faintest idea in what direction the economy was moving.

Mr Lawson said the combination of steady growth and low inflation was something this country had not seen since the 1960s. It was proof positive of the success of the Government's economic strategy.

It would be perverse, he said, to change that strategy and we are not proposing to do so. The Government's aim will be to continue to achieve sustainable non-inflationary growth.

The two essential elements of policy remained unchanged. The first was a sound medium-term financial strategy which would keep inflation moving down. It aimed progressively to cut the public sector borrowing as a proportion of total output and gradually to reduce the Government's debt.

Second, within the essential framework of financial discipline, the Government aimed to increase income tax, to promote greater efficiency within a reduced public sector.

The Government had inherited grossly excessive borrowing and inflation and had to tackle them in a period of deepening recession. Since 1981 inflation had been falling steadily, down to 5 per cent from a peak of over 20 per cent. Interest rates were at their lowest for 5½ years. Output had risen by 18,000 in the second quarter of this year, the first rise for nearly four years. Vacancies were up and short-time working was the lowest for four years, too. Overturn was picking up strongly.

There had been lower pay settlements and higher productivity.

As for his statement last week that there might be a need for some small net increase in taxation next year, he wished to describe reasons for the changed prospect.

When the Treasury forecast was published at the time of the budget the PSBR outturn for last year, 1982-83, was expected to be about £7,500m, allowing for some short-fall between planned and actual spending. But the figures had been a surge in public spending at the very end of the year and the outcome was closer to the overall planning figure so that the PSBR for 1982-83 actually turned out to be £1,500m higher than the figure published in the Red Book.

Any estimate of the extent to which departments would under-spend must be highly uncertain, even near the end of the financial year.

It would now be only prudent to plan on this year's outturn, like last year's, coming much closer to the planning figure. That was the main reason, despite the measures announced on July 7 that he now expected this year's PSBR to be higher than was expected in March, probably by £2,000m.

Many of these considerations applied to 1984-85, too. The Government had held to the planning total of £12,640 billion, for 1984-85 which was published in the White Paper.

It was right to make no allowance for expenditure shortfall next year, in contrast to the £1,200m allowed for this year, and to keep the contingency reserve at £3,000m. This was (he said) disappointed out

critics who hoped to be able to accuse us of fudging the figures.

Partly because of higher borrowing last year and this year, he also expected debt interest to be a little higher next year than was previously envisaged. Together, these two factors more than offset a small upward revision in forecast revenue last year. That was why, despite the improved growth prospect, the overall fiscal prospect had slightly deteriorated since the last budget.

On the prospects at the next budget, whatever decisions had to be taken next spring, he was confident that on present policies he would be able to reduce the level of borrowing during the lifetime of this Parliament.

This (he said) is one of the Government's major objectives, for lower taxation increases the individual's freedom of choice and encourages enterprise.

Any Chancellor could reduce taxation in the short-term by putting borrowing back to the 1979 level and make a £7,000m cut at a stroke, but the price of that would be rampant inflation, higher interest rates and still higher unemployment. The Government was not going down that road.

Public expenditure as a proportion of gross domestic product had steadily declined since 1981 and taxation had come down. But he did not regard the reductions already made as entitling the Government to rest on its oars. There could be no disputing the fact that taxation at widely differing levels of inflation was too high.

Ways had to be found of restoring to the man in the street the freedom to spend or save more of his earnings. The more wages and salaries were taxed, the less incentive there was to earn more, the bigger the millstone around the necks of the enterprising, and so the more destructive the brake upon industrial performance. The ultimate result would be worse prospects for growth and for new jobs.

Public expenditure had fallen for the last two years and would fall further next year. Government policy was resulting in a breaking out from the vicious circle of ever-higher spending leading to ever-higher taxation and an ever more sluggish and less responsive economy.

If the position could be held stable for the next three years then, with the economy steadily growing, there would be scope for further reductions in the level of taxation.

The Government was sticking to its pledge at the Election when all public expenditure proposals had been set out. The Government had been re-elected in some areas, but there were always more attractive ways of spending money. Hard choices had to be made and the Government had been ready to make them.

It had been determined to maintain a firm grip on public expenditure when it became clear it was running ahead too fast. It would ensure that tight control was maintained.

For next year would have to cover both discretionary charges and all other contingencies including estimating charges.

The pattern of the past showed that expenditure had been inordinately high year by year. The Government was determined to bring a halt to the creeping encroachment of the public sector and was looking for savings wherever they could be made.

Another Government was to be made, and it was to be made by the Government. That was vital to the prosperity of the nation.

Only the Labour Party seemed unable to see the logic of the policy. It seemed the world was out of step with them.

There was concern about the balance between capital and current expenditure in the public sector. Fixed investment in the public sector, as defined in the national

account, fell under Labour between 1974 and 1979 from 6.5 per cent of total national output, to 4.4 per cent. In 1981 it had fallen to 3.4 per cent and since then it had been broadly stable.

Figures were distorted by defence expenditure being classified as current but if this was included in the public sector then for 1978-79 and 1982-83, the total public sector capital spending, including nationalised industry investment, rose 38 per cent from £12,000m to £17,000m. If the 1982-83 figure was adjusted to take account of sales of special assets, including the sale of council houses, the figure would be £20,000m.

He invited Mr Hattersley, chief Opposition spokesman on Treasury and economic affairs, to spell out his party's policies. He seemed to be in some puzzlement. In June Mr Hattersley had written in *The Times*: "Our economic policy was a net vote loser."

His own statement last Thursday was proof of the Government's frankness with the nation at the time of the election. On public expenditure it was constant on the figures in the White Paper and it had kept its word despite all the talk of hidden manifestos and savage cuts.

The sight of the Government sticking to its policy and sticking to its word had caused consternation in some quarters but the Government believed election pledges should not be taken lightly. Government policies were succeeding.

Mr Roy Hattersley, chief Opposition spokesman on Treasury and economic affairs (Birmingham, Sparkbrook, Lab) moved an amendment "that the Government's economic policy fails to plan or provide for reductions in the level of unemployment, accepts and accommodates a continuing decline in investment and stagnation in output and is based on the proven fallacy that a reduction in Government spending will, notwithstanding the hardship to such cuts, cause, produce an automatic improvement in the economic prospects of this country."

He said the Chancellor's speech was in turn complacent and self-satisfied. It was simply a rehash of the hardy old chestnut that the Chancellor had made such a defensive speech - not the speech of a man convinced of his own success.

The speech was intended to divert attention from his broken promises. The abject and humiliating failure which the newspapers had reported was the failure of the entire Government over 4½ years. How long did one have to wait for the pledges of 1979 to be redeemed?

Despite the bragadoocio of the Chancellor's speech, manufacturing output had fallen for four years back to the level of the 1960s. No other higher spending leading to ever-higher taxation and an ever more sluggish and less responsive economy.

Once, one had been told that tax cuts were certain and essential. But taxes under Mr Lawson's Government had gone up by £18,000m. The Chancellor had actually boasted about it in an article in *The Times* this morning.

Another example of broken promises was that as recently as last Thursday the Chancellor had spoken of the necessity of firm monetary policies. That turned out to be a PSBR which was almost £2,000m greater than the Government's target.

Did Mr Lawson regard the £2,000m excess on the PSBR as a tragedy or as a matter of no consequence? Mr Lawson's PSBR failure demonstrated the absurdity of his own position. In his terms the £2,000m on that aggregate ought to be a tragedy; but that tragedy took place during 1983, a period which Mr Lawson described as a year of success.

Every objective and independent survey in the country, every forecaster, was saying that the Chancellor was over-optimistic in his prediction for the economy.

On the radio this morning stockholders were queuing up to argue whether Mr Lawson was wrong by mistake or wrong by malice.

Somerset House rooms to be opened to the public

HOUSE OF LORDS

The Somerset House Bill, presented for second reading in the House of Lords by Lord Skelmersdale, a Government spokesman, was a further demonstration of the Government's concern to preserve the nation's heritage, the minister said.

Lord Houghton of Sowerby (Lab) said tourists would pour into Somerset House if they knew that Oliver Cromwell lay in state and Inigo Jones lived and died there. It was a romantic place.

He asked for an express assurance that commercial lettings were in no sense contemplated under this Bill.

Lord Skelmersdale said he was unable to commit the Government to vast or any sums of money, but no doubt the Earl of Gowrie, Minister for the Arts, would do his best to help in the appeal. Already there had been promises of £300,000.

The Bill was read a second time.

Repatiation of prisoners

The Repatriation of Prisoners Bill, introduced by Lady Trumpington, a Government spokeswoman, was read a first time in the House of Lords.

It makes provision for "facilitating the transfer between the United Kingdom and places outside the British Isles of persons for the time being detained in prisons, hospitals and other institutions by virtue of

orders made in the courts and the exercise by courts and tribunals of their criminal jurisdiction."

Another Government Bill, the Animal Health and Welfare Bill, introduced by Lord Eton, Under Secretary of State, Home Office, and a private member's Bill, the Straw and Stubble Burning Prohibition Bill, introduced by Lord Alport (C), were also read a first time.

Houghton: Bill has undesirable potential

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Record £62m drugs haul shows growth of illicit market in Britain

Customs officers seized a record 195.5 kilos of heroin, much of it at Heathrow airport, in the financial year ended last April, it is disclosed in the annual report for 1982-83 published yesterday by Customs and Excise.

The seizures represent an increase of 88.5 per cent, on seizures of 104 kilos in 1981-82 which in turn were 178 per cent above figures for the previous year. The size of the seizures given in the latest report indicate yet again the increase in the domestic market in heroin.

Consumers pay £28bn tax

The total revenue collected from Customs and Excise activities in 1982-3 was £27,956m which represented an increase of 11 per cent on the previous year. Value added tax alone produced £13,815m and that was a 17 per cent rise. The increase came from greater consumer spending.

On the excise side the yield from tobacco was almost £3,500m. The drop in consumption almost offset 1982 budget increases, leaving only a 0.75 per cent increase in income from that source. Duty from alcohol fell by 2.5 per cent to £3,021m. At the same time the report shows an increase in the

number of breweries from 245 to 273, adding that it shows the continued resurgence of the small brewery.

The largest increase in excise duties came from betting and gaming, which went by 18 per cent to £602m. Revenue was increased by higher charges and increased casino activity.

Customs duties yielded £1,028m. The increase of 7 per cent is attributed in the report to a fall in the exchange rate for sterling against other important currencies.

Customs and Excise receipts in 1982-3 represented 38 per cent of central government taxation revenue.

Police Bill concession from Hurd

By Peter Evans
Home Affairs Correspondent

Labour MPs forced a concession from the Government yesterday over the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill.

In a sustained attack during the Bill's committee stage, they argued that a clause in it would give police new powers of entry to private property. When police wanted to search someone on it, private property would be treated as a public place, they said.



Mr Hurd: Will look again

Although an attempt to amend the clause was lost, Mr Douglas Hurd, Minister of State at the Home Office, said that since there was a sustained anxiety, "that is something we ought to look at again". He said that private property could become a public place if there was public access.

The report also points out the growth of tobacco smuggling from the Low Countries because of a wide price difference between that area and Britain in tobacco for hand-rolled cigarettes.

Seventy-fourth Report of the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Customs and Excise for the year ended March 31, 1983. (Stationery Office, £7.55).

COST OF HOLIDAY LIVING INDEX
13 DESTINATIONS

ITEMS	PORTUGAL	MAJORCA	LANZAROTE	TENERIFE	SPAIN	MAJORCA	LA PALMA	CYPRUS	MALTA	MOROCCO	UK	FLORIDA	BARBADOS
Dinner for two	4.85	7.30	7.30	8.21	7.58	8.00	11.59	9.80	11.56	9.27	11.50	17.48	21.19
Wine	99	91	100	228	128	150	274	196	154	232	405	420	918
Cup of coffee	10	30	23	21	22	50	34	35	40	23	50	35	53
Beer (1/2 pint)	31	98	27	41	47	50	98	85	49	85	80	105	70
Cup of tea	12	25	18	18	32	50	34	33	32	23	45	35	53
Cinema film	2.10	1.78	2.17	2.05	2.00	3.00	1.88	1.96	2.83	2.32	1.98	2.98	4.98
Soft drinks	22	33	32	33	32	50	34	36	34	28	35	70	35
Sun cream	2.10	1.81	2.71	2.40	2.17	1.50	2.40	1.98	3.40	2.74	3.90	3.50	8.00
5 Post cards	1.18	88	73	73	82	120	82	131	87	80	120	150	1.08
Car hire (per week)	58.26	59.08	59.08	59.08	60.08	76.76	59.08	77.78	58.47	129.87	91.00	82.23	188.82
Petrol (per gallon)	2.13	1.83	1.35	1.33	1.79	1.87	1.44	1.50	1.70	1.67	1.83	1.12	1.85
WEIGHTED TOTAL FOR ONE WEEK	£120	£133	£151	£161	£161	£185	£200	£205	£244	£247	£257	£438	

For those seeking winter sunshine, Thomas Cook have compiled this index comparing the prices of holiday expenses abroad with those in the UK. The week's total (bottom line) is based on dinner for two, a bottle of wine, two cups of coffee and tea, two beers and four soft drinks daily; two rolls of 24-print film, a bottle of suncream, five postcards (including postage), a week's car hire and 20 litres of petrol. Exchange rates are those for Nov 8. The top line shows totals expressed as percentages of the UK total; countries are in order of value for money.

Portugal is cheapest for holidays

By Derek Harris
Commercial Editor

Once the winter holiday-maker has arrived at a foreign destination the cost of living would be lowest in Portugal and highest in Barbados. Only there and in Florida would costs be higher than in Britain, with Majorca as well as Portugal virtually cutting living costs by half compared with Britain.

This emerges from a survey by Thomas Cook to produce an index comparing the levels of holiday expenses in 12 popular holiday destinations together with a comparison of British costs.

Although Portugal is so cheap there is a disincentive to drive too many miles by car: at £2.13 a gallon it has the most expensive petrol of all.

The week's totals in the index (bottom line) are based on these daily intakes: dinner for two, one bottle of wine, two cups of coffee and tea, two beers and four soft drinks.

Allowed for in the week are two rolls of 24-print film, a bottle of suncream, five postcards (including postage), a week's car hire and 20 litres of petrol. Exchange rates used are those operating on November 8.

On the top line the index is constructed with Britain representing 100 and the other countries as comparable percentages, thus indicating relative value for money for each country.

Chesterfield by-election

Benn factor remains the wild card

Mrs Gloria Havenhand would be absolutely delighted if Mr Wedgwood Benn became Labour's candidate for next year's parliamentary by-election at Chesterfield. It would, she added, be "absolutely fabulous".

Mrs Havenhand is chairman of Chesterfield Conservative Association and quotes with modest relish an opinion poll showing that one in four voters would not vote for Mr Benn. She has firm views on why this might be so. "He would be coming here merely to represent his own extreme left-wing views," she says. "He would be here for his own self-importance and not for Chesterfield and the people's views."

Few commentators would disagree with at least part of her analysis. Chesterfield is a town of profound moderation, in all things. A mere bus journey from wing bastions such as Boleover (home of the Skinner clan), Clay Cross of immortal socialist memory, the "socialist republic of South Yorkshire," the town has contrived to be perfectly happy for the past 19 years with an MP who personifies Labour moderation, Mr Eric Varley.

Concern more to conserve Chesterfield's environmental heritage, including a magnificent and historic market, than with national politics, the local Labour-led council is hardly to

be found in the vanguard of "progressive" socialism.

Even its miners, eking out fairly comfortable lifestyles from the rich Derbyshire coalfield, proclaim a moderation that belies the popular view of collierymen.

Not much of this information can be gleaned from the town's official Labour sources. The local party secretary, Mr Arthur Webber, would only say that 35 people are now seeking the nomination for Labour. Mr Benn has not been officially in touch with Mr Webber. He declined in the bluntest terms to give names or other information. However, a shortlist is to be drawn up on January 8 and a candidate selected on January 15.

It was left to the local secretary of the National Union of Mineworkers, Mr Peter Heathfield, to say that the names of former Labour MPs such as Mr Robert Crier, Keighley, Mr Philip Whitehead, Derby North, and Mr Alexander Lyons, York, had been mentioned to him as applicants.

Other clues came from a local bookmaker, Mr Brian Harrison. He will be offering odds of 8-1 on the Labour leader of neighbouring North East Derbyshire district council, Mr Clifford Fox. Mr Benn, if he made the shortlist, would be at 6-1. Another name mentioned by Mr Heathfield is that of the Chesterfield council leader, Mr William Flanagan.

Mr Heathfield, occasionally cited as favouring Mr Benn, said: "He is the most important figure outside the parliamentary party. You can't disregard him, so that has to put him in with a chance."

Whether Mr Heathfield's members feel the same will be known on Monday when the decision on their nominee is announced. In the unlikely event of the miners favouring Mr Benn, it is also accepted that the NUM no longer has the same constituency clout it once had, thanks to pit closures.

The Benn factor is also very much in the minds of the Liberal/SDP. The local Liberal Association secretary, Mr Kenneth Eversleigh, says a Benn candidacy would cost Labour votes that would be transferred not to the Conservatives but to the Alliance candidate, Mr Max Payne. Mr Payne, aged 53, a lecturer at Sheffield Polytechnic, fought the June general election.

The Conservative candidate, to be chosen on December 8, will doubtless experience some backlash as a result of local redundancies in the engineering, coal, and steel industries.

The largest operator training room in Europe has been built at Sandouville at a cost of £1.5m. It features a complete assembly line "school". Workmen are withdrawn from the adjoining Renault 18 line in groups of 140 for training.

Ford yesterday announced price cuts of about £450 on a number of Granada L models to boost flagging sales. But the electrically operated windows and central locking, which were standard fittings, will now be optional extras.

Motoring, page 29



Mr Benn: Opponents hoping for his candidature



Mr Varley: Representing all-round moderation

Renault's newcomer out to take aerodynamic title

By Clifford Webb, Motoring Correspondent

Renault, France's state-controlled motor group, is preparing to challenge Europe's leading quality car makers with a new executive saloon, which it claims is the world's most aerodynamically efficient car.

More than £100m has been invested in the new R25, which goes into production at Renault's Sandouville plant near Le Havre in three weeks' time. It will be on sale in France from March and is expected to reach British customers by the summer.

The previous holder of the aerodynamic "blue ribbon" was the Audi 100 with a drag coefficient of .30 compared with the Renault 25's .28.

The R25 means much more to Renault than a replacement

"A great little performer Great value too!"



The new Ferguson TX 14" portable colour TV

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Ferguson TX quality. Wherever you want it.

has the picture quality and clarity that André Previn described as, "Sharper, brighter... the richest colours I've ever seen. I'd say it was the best picture of all time".

That's what you'd expect from the advanced Ferguson chassis design and colour tube technology. You'd also expect Ferguson to provide a battery adaptor* to let you use it in your car, caravan or boat.

What's not so expected is the price. Quality portable colour TV is now within everyone's reach.

*battery adaptor optional extra.

At a price few can match. Now, with a wider choice of channels and breakfast television to enjoy, a colour portable makes perfect sense.

Choosing the new Ferguson TX 14" colour portable makes even more sense. For its great performance. And above all, its great value.



"Best picture of all time"

Israel exchanges 4,500 guerrillas for six of its own soldiers

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

Both sides in the Middle East conflict yesterday found cause for jubilation from the same event, the biggest, and, for Israel, most costly prisoner exchange it has ever negotiated with the PLO. Six young Israeli soldiers were exchanged for 4,500 Palestinian and Lebanese guerrillas - a ratio of one Israeli for every 750 Arabs.

Among the 1,100 Palestinians flown to Algiers in a fleet of three Air Force jumbo jets bearing the emblem of the Red Cross, were 98 Arabs convicted in the Israeli courts and serving life or other long sentences for serious terrorist crimes.

In addition to the track-suited guerrillas who left giving victory signs, singing national songs, vowing to return to the struggle and, in at least one case, spitting defiantly in the face of an Israeli policeman, the aircraft were also loaded with Palestinian archive material seized by the Israeli Army during the siege of west Beirut.

The complex deal also involved the complete emptying of Ansar, the Israeli prison camp in southern Lebanon, which had housed 4,400 suspected terrorists, including the former Palestine Liberation Organization commander in Sidon, Mr Salah Taamari. He is regarded by Israeli intelligence as the most dangerous man captured during the Lebanon war.

A fleet of 120 red and white Israeli civilian buses was used to ferry the 3,300 Ansar detainees who chose to be released inside southern Lebanon to four assembly points, while many curfews were imposed and tanks rumbled

through deserted roads. Those who opted for Algiers had their hands bound and were herded, in a crocodile formation, on to giant helicopters and military transports which flew them to the waiting jumbos at Tel Aviv airport, which was under maximum security alert.

Many Israeli soldiers, ministers and ordinary citizens

'The deal is seen as a boost for the flagging fortunes of Yassir Arafat'

alike, expressed apprehension at the risk which was being taken in releasing so many men and women regarded as bitter enemies of the state. But most spoke to thought it worthwhile.

Although the patiently negotiated deal, which involved more than 100 meetings in Geneva alone, was seen as a boost for the flagging fortunes of Mr Yassir Arafat, the hard-pressed PLO chairman - whose supporters form the bulk of those Palestinians set free - Mr Moshe Arens, the Defence Minister, denied that the heavy price paid by Israel was a sign of weakness.

Speaking after emotional scenes of reunion between the six Israelis and their families had been broadcast live on television, Mr Arens said: "I see it as a strength and a source of pride that we have his concern for our soldiers who fall prisoner in battle". He said there were no political implications in such an exchange.

Until the outbreak of vicious fighting between pro- and anti-Arafat forces around Tripoli, the Israelis had been hoping to secure a total package which also would have involved the Israeli prisoners being held by Mr Ahmed Jibril's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine - General Command. Until yesterday, Israel thought that only two of its men were involved, but now it is believed that a third may be a prisoner.

The decisive factor for the switch to seeking the release only of those in the hands of PLO loyalists, came at the beginning of this month, when it was feared their lives were in extreme danger and Mr Arafat's men were unable to guarantee their long term safety.

Mr Arens flatly denied that Mr Arafat's future had been linked to the deal hammered out at Geneva, in the talks which took place indirectly via the Red Cross.

Mr Shmuel Tamir, the former Minister of Justice who headed the Israeli negotiators, expressed hope that the Israelis being held by Mr Jibril could still be recovered, as part of a deal involving the 300 Syrian prisoners Israel captured during the Lebanon war.

A new round of talks is being urgently sought along these lines.

The handover, which had originally been scheduled to take place last week, was greeted with visible public relief throughout Israel, little time being given during the initial euphoria of public questioning about how it may have further eroded the already limited gains of the Lebanon war.



Welcome home: Danny Gilboa, one of six Israeli prisoners released by the PLO, is greeted by a young relative in Tel Aviv yesterday.

Babies were buried near rubbish pile

Paris (AP) - A farmer said to be "slow-witted" and his wife were held yesterday in southern France on charges of killing nine of their new-born children.

The infanticide allegations against Jean-Pierre Leymarie, aged 44, a farmer, and his wife Rolande, aged 31, are said to be among the worst on record.

The couple live on a 20-acre farm in St-Bonnet-Le-Riviere, near Brive, 255 miles south of Paris. They have two other children - a daughter of 12 and a son of 10, who according to neighbours appear well-raised and loved.

On Monday, officials discovered the first remains of the couple's other children buried in the farm courtyard. By Wednesday night, the remains of eight other babies, including a set of twins, had been found buried a few inches deep near a rubbish pile by the farmhouse.

The couple are said by the police to have admitted killing the nine babies by letting them bleed to death through sorted umbilical cords.

Salvadorean rebels reject election

From John Carlin, San Salvador

"This is no time for words. The time now is for fighting", a Salvadorean rebel leader said in response to the official announcement that presidential elections would be held in El Salvador on March 25.

Setting the election date will inject fresh life into a stagnant political process but is unlikely to have any positive effect on the country's most agonizing problem, the stalemated four-year civil war.

The Constituent Assembly, or parliament, which announced the elections, has become so bogged down in legislative minutiae that there has been no visible political direction in recent months in El Salvador, prompting much speculation lately of a coup by impatient military officers.

The election date should check this threat and please President Reagan who, in the face of accusations of human rights abuses by government forces, is finding it increasingly difficult to persuade Congress to

approve badly-needed injections of military aid to El Salvador.

Elections, however, have long been the chief stumbling block to a negotiated solution to the country's problems. The guerrillas have said they will fight until they are guaranteed power-sharing in a provisional government prior to elections. Both Washington and the Salvadorean Government are adamant that "the rebels must not be allowed to shoot their way into power".

The left-wing rebels believe that elections will merely perpetuate a long-standing political system where right-wing military officers hold the key to power.

The powerful far right party, Arena, the National Republican Alliance, which opposes political reform of any kind, is almost certain to field as its presidential candidate, Major Roberto D'Aubuisson, who has repeatedly been linked with El Salvador's notorious death squads.

Election of Speaker Ankara's first test

From Rasit Gurdilek, Ankara

After 38 months of military rule, Turkey yesterday took the final step towards the restoration of democracy - or transition to democracy, as the outgoing military regime prefers to call it - with the opening of the seventeenth civilian Parliament in the republic's 60-year history.

The newly elected deputies listened as the oldest member, chairing the session, paid tribute on their behalf to the armed forces "for intervening just in time to save the country from chaos" and preparing the ground for the perpetuation of democracy.

"We should never forget our debt of gratitude to the armed forces," Mr Fahri Ozdilek said. He urged his colleagues to set an example to the public "by their solemnity, mutual respect and tolerance in relations with each other."

Earlier Mr Bulend Ulusu had resigned as Prime Minister after an hour's meeting with President Kenan Evren. Mr Ulusu said the resignation of his Government had been accepted, and he had been asked to stay on until a new government took office.

Only three parties, those allowed to contest the general election 18 days ago, are represented in the 400-seat, single-chamber Grand National Assembly which will have a five-year term. The conservative Motherland Party of Mr Turgut Ozal has a safe majority with 211 seats. The Opposition is made up of the centre-left Populist Party, with 117 seats, and the right-centre Nationalist Democracy Party which has disappointed its military backers by winning only 71 seats.

One seat will remain empty because of an earlier veto on a Motherland candidate by the ruling National Security Council.

The inaugural session was only ceremonial and after the deputies took their oaths the Parliament went into a 10 day recess to allow the nomination of candidates for the post of Speaker. The Speaker's election

threatens to develop into the legislature's first crisis.

The military regime is known to be anxious to have Mr Ulusu elected speaker, not only to assuage its hurt pride over the defeat of the favoured Nationalist Democracy Party, but also to have a trusted figure mending over the untested civilians to safeguard its achievements. If elected, Mr Ulusu, a retired admiral, will deputize for President Evren when he is out of the country.

At first his election looked assured. President Evren received the party leaders after the election, and reportedly obtained their acquiescence. But Mr Ulusu, and three Government ministers who were all elected as Nationalist Democracy Party members refused to join the party, asserting their independence.

The party leadership publicly deplored their action and is now said to be having second thoughts on Mr Ulusu's candidacy.

However, the Motherland Party, trying to cultivate a warmer relationship with the President who had openly opposed Mr Ozal on the eve of the poll, is said to be determined to uphold Mr Ulusu's candidacy even if he rejects offers to join the party. A recent series of price rises relieved Mr Ozal from an unpleasant task and speculation was rife that this service was rendered on the understanding that Mr Ulusu would be the Motherland candidate.

Only after the election of the Speaker will the National Security Council be officially dissolved. Its members will be retired from the command of the armed services to become members of a Presidential Council to assist President Evren in the exercise of his sweeping powers for six more years. The appointed Consultative Assembly, the 160-strong organ which performed quasi-parliamentary functions under the military regime, will also end its legal existence then.

Stowaways cast into sea

From Susan MacDonald, Dakar, Senegal

One Gambian died and two were rescued after the captain of a ship on which they had stowed away threw them overboard, according to reports from the Gambian capital, Banjul.

The three are said to have stowed away on a Liberian-registered ship, the Bayzille, out of Banjul.

When they were discovered off the Sierra Leone coast the captain ordered a makeshift raft made out of two oil drums and planks. One stowaway who resisted was stabbed by the crew, then lashed to the raft and lowered over the side, to die a few hours later. The other two were thrown into the sea with life jackets on.

FBI fails to find source of leak

From Steven Weisman, The New York Times, Washington

An investigation ordered by President Reagan has failed after two months to find out who disclosed information to news organizations in September about US military options in Lebanon.

Several Administration officials doubted whether the FBI's investigation, which created tensions and suspicions at the White House, would uncover the sources of the information. But they believe that the inquiry would at least warn people in the Adminis-

tration against giving out classified material.

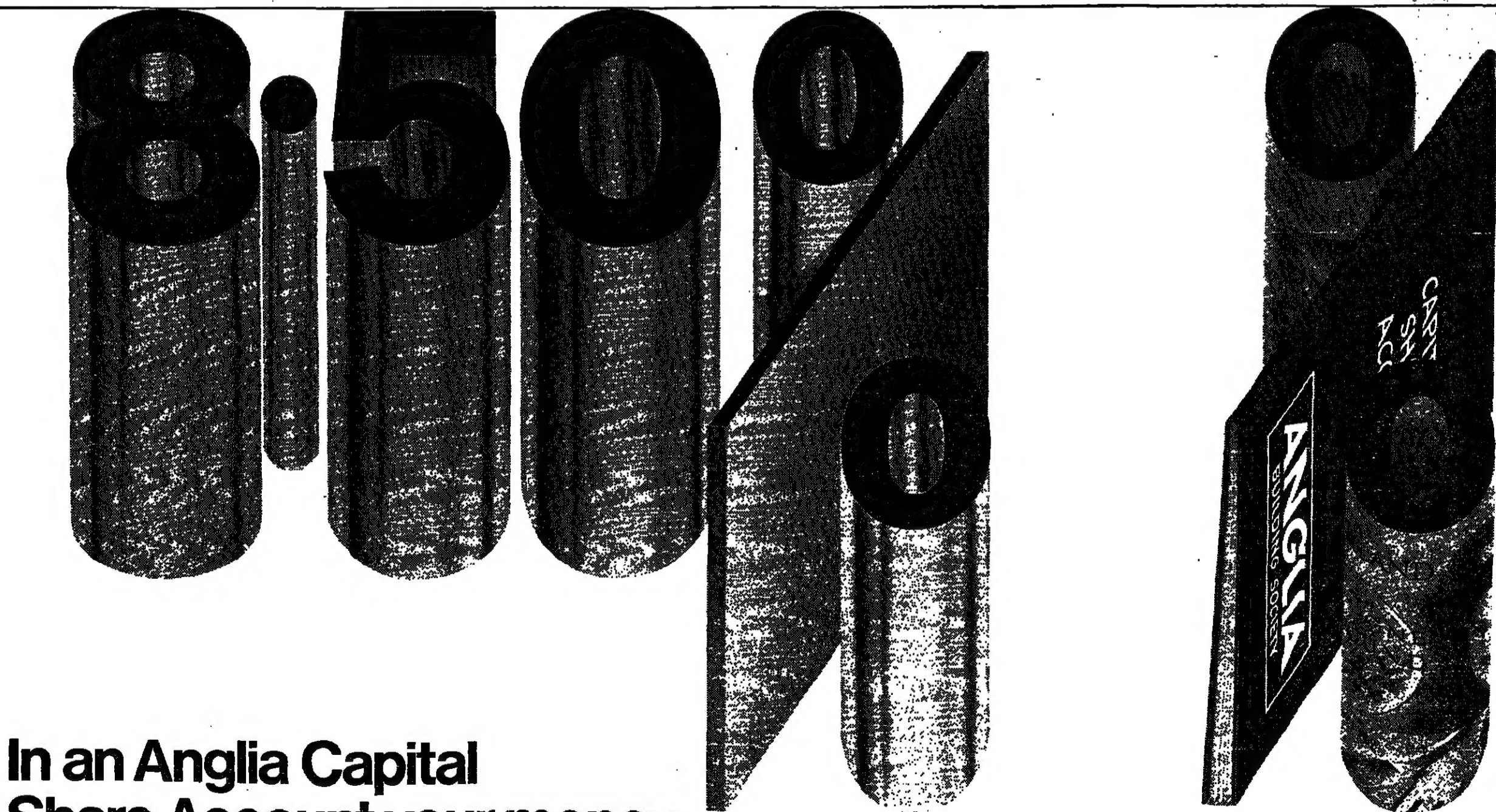
The investigation was the most wide-ranging attempt by Mr Reagan to clamp down on unauthorized leaks to the news media.

FBI agents had questioned Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, Mr Caspar Weinberger, the Defence Secretary, Mr William Casey, the Director of Central Intelligence, Mr James Baker, the White House Chief of Staff, and others.

One official, remarking that it

was extraordinary for the FBI to interview such senior officials, emphasized that the investigation was criminal, not civil, in nature and therefore all the more explosive. He would not discuss what criminal violations might have taken place.

Several officials deplored the inquiry. Another said he was unsure of its extent but given the thinking at the White House it was entirely possible that there were wiretaps authorized for both Administration aides and journalists.



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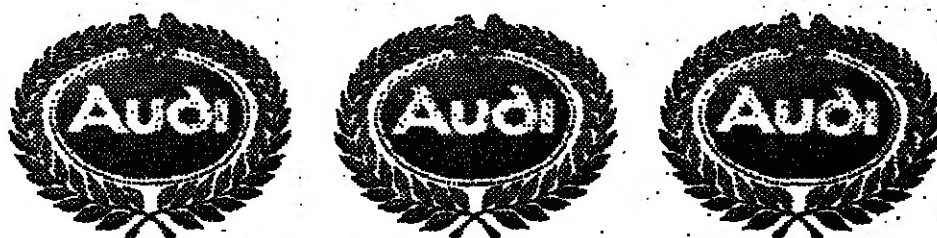
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The missiles debate

America believes talks will resume

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

The Reagan Administration yesterday continued to express confidence that the Soviet Union would eventually agree to resume talks on reducing medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe, despite its decision on Wednesday to break off the Geneva negotiations. However, US officials admitted they had no idea when a resumption would take place or in what forum.

There was considerable speculation that Moscow may propose merging the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Force (INF) talks with the Strategic Arms Reductions Talks (START)

which are still continuing in Geneva.

The US is not in favour of merging the two rounds of negotiations as it feels this would complicate things. However, it has not ruled out such a possibility if this is seen as the only way of getting the medium-range missile talks going again.

US officials now seem to have abandoned their initial optimism that the Soviet Union might try to resume talks as early as January. It is now expected that Moscow will delay a return to the negotiating

table until it sees how European public opinion reacts to the breakdown and the deployment of the first 41 Pershing-2 and cruise missiles in West Germany, Britain and Italy at the end of this year.

Additional US missiles are to be deployed during 1984, including Belgium and the Netherlands where Government support for the new weapons is less pronounced than in the first three basing countries.

However, it is pointed out that the Soviet Union cannot afford to wait too long before

returning to negotiations because of the steady build-up of Pershings and cruises planned for the next few years. Altogether the United States is to deploy 572 of the new missiles in Western Europe between now and 1986 if no agreement is reached with the Soviet Union before then.

Concern that European public opinion may turn against the US now that deployment is going ahead and the talking has stopped has set off a concerted campaign by American officials to heap blame on Moscow for the breakdown of the Geneva negotiations.

Kinnock argues for freeze on deployment

From Ian Murray, Brussels

Nato could make the most of the Soviet walkout from Geneva by agreeing to freeze further deployment of cruise and Pershing-2 missiles in Europe at present levels. Mr Neil Kinnock, leader of the Labour Party, argued in Brussels yesterday.

Mr Kinnock said that although he deeply regretted the walkout, the reasons were easy to understand. He believed that the Soviet negotiators should be invited back against the promise that deployment of American missiles would be frozen.

Like most party leaders at the Socialist International here, Mr Kinnock concentrated on the missiles issue. Only M Lionel Jospin, representing the French Socialist Party, spoke out in favour of deployment of the intermediate range missiles. Mr Kinnock commented wryly: "I was obliged to ask why they don't have cruise and Pershing in France".

The British Opposition leader blamed both the United States and the Soviet Union for the breakdown. "In recent weeks, there were significant chances of agreement at five minutes to midnight," he told the meeting. "Now we are at five minutes past midnight and in danger of going into a long, dark night."

In view of the breakdown of



Time to listen: Mr Kinnock in Brussels yesterday

the talks, the Labour Party would advocate the merging of negotiations on limiting medium-range and strategic weapons. Apart from the freeze on deployment by both America and Russia, the party wanted a freeze on nuclear tests and production, as well as the participation at the negotiations of countries other than the two superpowers.

According to Mr Kinnock:

"Within Nato, relations between the European and the US have never been so strained. The development of an aggressive interventionism and lack of consultation with its allies by the US Government has rightly caused alarm."

"The Labour Party remains committed to British membership of Nato and we want to work within Nato to change it," he said.

Commentary

Geoffrey Smith

Washington

After three weeks of travelling around the United States, one of my strongest impressions is how the political scene is dominated by the personality of Ronald Reagan. More so, I believe, than ever before. Even those who disagree with him most have a sense of infuriated awe at political skills which look so much more formidable within the US than they do on our side of the Atlantic.

Part of his strength lies in his capacity to divorce his personal standing from the more controversial actions of his Administration. He comes across to the American public as such a pleasant and appealing person, his almost boyish charm belying his years. "I can be mad at him," one liberal Democrat remarked to me in the Mid-West, "but I cannot hate him."

It was precisely this quality which enabled him to win the presidency by destroying Mr Jimmy Carter in their television debate. How could anyone believe that such a friendly man could be trigger-happy? He made President Carter look the unreasonable man for having suggested any such thing.

But Mr Reagan has more than a pleasing manner and an easy smile. His political instincts are acute. His personal popularity may not depend upon approval of his policies, but he is careful not to push his luck too far. The moral majority policies on abortion and school prayer have been pushed well down his list of priorities - the occasional gesture of support, but no more.

Even Mr Reagan's insistence on securing tax cuts, which has been widely interpreted as the mark of a doctrine apostate of supply-side economics, probably owes to his political conviction that they are necessary to retain the support of those voters who elected him.

A potential weakness

He has an instinctive rapport with average Americans. He knows how they will react and he expresses himself in terms to which they respond. This is true not only of such important occasions as his televised defence of the American presence in Grenada and Lebanon, which must clearly have been a remarkable exercise in political persuasion. It is also true of his spontaneous comments on many issues.

This is partly, I am sure, a subconscious gift. He strikes a chord with average Americans because he thinks as they do. This is a political strength, but it is also potentially a policy weakness. The intellectual range of the average American is not unlimited. Nor is his knowledge of other countries.

President Reagan has frequently been found at press conferences to have left the right answer behind. His grasp of the subtleties of policy is known to be insecure in a number of fields. He cannot speak to the peoples of other countries with the same sureness of touch. Often he seems surprised by their reactions. These failings have not weakened him politically at home, but they might expose him to the kind of policy errors that would ultimately destroy his dominance.

Unless that happens, he must stand an excellent chance of winning reelection next year if he runs again. He could lose if the economic recovery were to peter out before next November. But I found most American economic analysts now expecting it to last well into 1985 at least.

He could be defeated if the dissatisfied groups - blacks, Hispanics, and women, with none of whom he is in good standing at the moment - were to be motivated and mobilized to vote against him in sufficient numbers. The chances of his losing for that reason would seem to me to be higher, though not yet probable.

His greatest danger, I suspect, may lie in foreign affairs. His political judgment will not lead him astray as to what the American public are prepared to accept. It is not likely, therefore, that the Grenada operation, which was a considerable political success, will be followed in the coming year by the invasion of Nicaragua which would be a much more hazardous political enterprise.

Not all international questions, however, can be answered by political intuition. One could imagine that in the Middle East, for instance, the Administration might be unable to secure a success and lack the diplomatic finesse to withdraw in time. But without some new national misfortune President Reagan must stand a good chance of translating his personal dominance this year into an election victory next year.

Summit concentrates on French mediation role

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

The role France could play in urgent Western efforts to bring the Russians back to the negotiating table was the central point in talks that began here yesterday between President Francois Mitterrand and Chancellor Helmut Kohl of West Germany.

The French President arrived yesterday for regular consultations which are seen here as being of particular importance in coordinating Western defence policy and in preparing for the arduous European Community summit meeting in Athens next month.

Bonn has already announced

its support for President Mitterrand's recent offer to mediate after the Soviet walkout at Geneva. Yesterday the two defence ministers, Herr Manfred Wörner and M Charles Hernu, began talks on the deployment of Pershing-2 here, which began on Wednesday, as well as on France's declared intention of strengthening its military presence in West Germany.

President Mitterrand strongly supported the Chancellor's determination on deployment and on several occasions emphasized the need for the new missiles

Kremlin blames US and predicts new arms race

From Richard Owen, Moscow

"When Caesar crossed the Rubicon in 49BC, he was heading for victory," one Western diplomat said yesterday. "The Russians seem to have forgotten that."

Soviet officials and Western diplomats regard the breakdown of the Geneva talks on medium-range missiles as a watershed in East-West relations. Tass said that by voting to accept Pershing-2 the Bundestag had crossed the Rubicon.

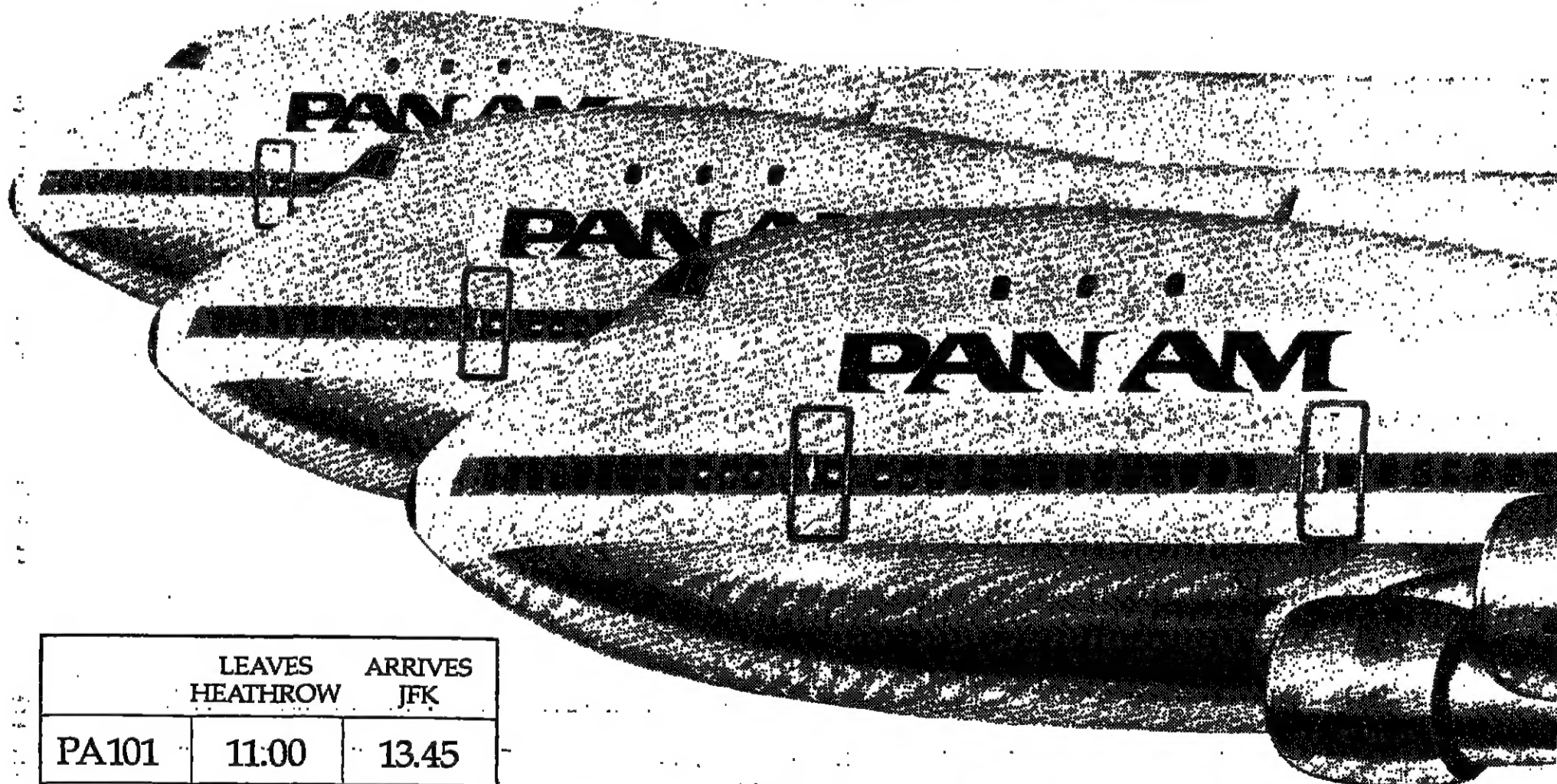
Most Kremlin comment has been low-key, but has emphasized that an opportunity for arms reduction has been lost

and a new arms race is beginning.

Anticipating the charge that the Russian walkout is to blame for this, officials are emphasizing that the lack of progress at Geneva was the fault of the United States and made negotiations pointless.

Moscow has not yet made its authoritative statement on the future of Geneva, including the parallel talks on strategic arms reduction (Start). There is speculation that either the Euro-missiles will be incorporated in a revamped version of Start, or that Start will also collapse.

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Policemen hanged for torture

Islamabad (AP) - Two senior police officers have been hanged, the martial law authorities said. The executions, at dawn on Wednesday, followed the hanging on Tuesday of a police inspector convicted with them of torturing a robbery suspect to death.

It was the first time that a Pakistani policeman had been executed or even brought to trial.

According to an official announcement, Sub-Inspector Ghulam Rasool climbed the scaffold on Tuesday at Sahiwal central jail, 217 miles south of here. Sub-inspector Amir Khan and Head Constable Zaman Khan Niazi were hanged 24 hours later at Mianwali, 125 miles southwest of Islamabad.

La Paz blast

La Paz (Reuters) - A powerful bomb exploded in the empty Bolivian Parliament causing considerable damage and blowing out three quarters of the windows in the government palace across the road. The city is rife with rumours of right-wing plots to overthrow left-wing Government.

Manila march

Manila (AP) - Businessmen in suits marched alongside factory workers in one of the biggest anti-government demonstrations in Manila's financial centre since the assassination on August 21 of opposition leader Benigno Aquino. An estimated 15,000 took part.

Pope for Seoul

Seoul (AFP) - The Pope will visit South Korea from May 3 to May 7 next year at the invitation of President Chun doo Hwan. He will take part in ceremonies commemorating the bicentennial of Korean Catholicism.

Bourse stopped

Amsterdam (AP) - Regular trading was delayed more than two hours yesterday on the Amsterdam Bourse as about 20 city employees sealed off its entrances to protest against proposed cuts in government salaries.

Thieves to die

Nairobi (AP) - Four Somalis, including a woman, were sentenced to be executed by firing squad for stealing 17m shillings (£740,000) in public funds. Mogadishu radio reported. They were also ordered to pay it back.

Line for sale

Metz (AP) - Forty-five blockhouses along France's pre Second World War Maginot Line will be auctioned off on December 6 in the town of Longwy. Bidding will start at between 950 francs (£80) and 2,250 francs.

Peace minute

Paris (Reuters) - One minute from noon, on March 22, has been chosen for a worldwide silence for peace by Unesco which in conference here said the end of the world had become a terrifying possibility.

Corpses find

Peking (Reuters) - Tombs built 3,000 years ago and containing well-preserved corpses have been discovered at Pingan Bao, Zhangwu County, northeast China. Pots, stone tools, agate, shell and bronze knives and delicate ornaments were also unearthed.

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Persons signing for children under 7 should also state relationship here _____

Hardship years give way to hope at last

Stephen Taylor, in the second of two articles, explains why there is now hope for the long-troubled economy.

Armed with fresh evidence that one of Africa's longest-running economic crises has not affected Zambia's political stability, finance officials in Lusaka, the capital, are preparing for another visit from the men who have a big say in their economy. The mood is a good deal more sanguine than when the International Monetary Fund came to town a year ago.

There was never any doubt that most Zambians would endorse a fifth term by President Kenneth Kaunda in last

equipped to withstand the slump from \$2,500 (about £1,600) a ton a decade ago to \$350 a ton this week for the mineral which earns more than 90 per cent of foreign exchange.

Zambia's timber and tourist industries have limited potential - most experts say its future depends on exploitation of agricultural resources.

Three years ago, after a series of disastrous agricultural experiments, the Government took the first step towards recognizing that farming belongs in the private sector, offering incentives to commercial producers in the form of payments remitted abroad.

In a country where all foreign currency allocations were suspended last month, that makes farmers an elite.

Although Zambians themselves must bear the blame for failing to capitalize on the good years, they have not been helped by the country's landlocked situation.

The Benguela Railway through Angola to the sea has been in only sporadic use since the civil war there in 1975, while the Chinese-built Unuru Railway to Dar es Salaam, which opened the following year, has been plagued by technical problems.

Help is at hand from China - which is almost doubling the number of maintenance experts on the line.

In the meantime the Tazara, as the railway is named, is failing to get copper to the marketplace as fast as it is produced and unable to meet new, stricter conditions.

The coming discussions with the IMF will concentrate on the budget due in January. The Zambians will be under pressure to cut government spending.

Having observed IMF conditions and survived a difficult year, they will be expecting a bigger loan next year. Mr Bitwell Kumanzi, governor of the Reserve Bank, is mentioning 300 million special drawing rights.

[Concluded]

Spain backs supergrass strategy

From Richard Wigg
Madrid

Spain has decided to experiment with Ulster-style official informers in its fight against Basque terrorism.

Prison sentences will be reduced where repentant terrorists collaborate with police leading to the arrest of other members of the Basque terrorist organization ETA or help significantly to prevent further violence, the Cabinet decided. A Bill of "exceptional" anti-terrorist measures, to be sent immediately to Parliament, is expected to be in force for two years.

Copying the Italian and British experiences with "supergrasses", the Socialists are hoping to take advantage of the fact that a majority of Basques are disgusted with the endless bloodshed and kidnappings as well as the internal divisions between ETA's numerous factions.

Court jurisdiction over payment of the "revolutionary tax" by terrorists will be extended to people acting for them outside Spain. But the Bill will not make the payment of a ransom by the victim's family a crime as the Interior Ministry once intended.

Courts will have powers to close down newspapers and other media judged to be habitually justifying grave acts of terrorism.

Chile court order to free suspect

From Florencia Varas
Santiago

In a verdict termed "historic" by the Chilean press, the Court of Appeals has accepted a habeas corpus petition from a 34-year-old leader calling for his release from one of the many secret detention centres run by the Government's security services.

The court's decision says that the National Centre for Information (CNI) is not empowered to arrest and detain people in non-public places.

There has been severe criticism of the CNI both within the country and internationally after a worker in Concepción set fire to himself in protest at the detention of his two children by security agents.

The Government's secret security forces were created in 1973 immediately after the coup which overthrew President Allende.

The way in which the secret security agents operate has spread fear among the population. The agents arrive in the middle of the night, without any identification, arrest people at their homes and taking them to unknown destinations without telling their relatives.

Over the past two weeks, since the suicide incident in Concepción, the critics have mounted and churchmen, politicians and professional organizations have demanded the CNI's dissolution and its replacement by a "constitutionalized" force.

China and Japan try to ease Korean tensions

From David Watts, Tokyo

Mr Hasuhiro Nakasone, the Japanese Prime Minister, has called for Chinese cooperation in relieving tensions between North and South Korea in the aftermath of the Rangoon bombing.

The suggestion came in the first round of talks between Mr Nakasone and Mr Hu Yaobang, secretary-general of the Chinese Communist Party, paying his first visit to a non-communist country.

Mr Hu's visit is the last of three important meetings in which the Japanese Prime Minister is adopting the higher foreign profile for his country that he has always advocated. As with his previous visitors, President Reagan and Chancellor Kohl, Mr Nakasone invited Mr Hu to endorse proposals pledging, among other things, to renounce the use of force between the two countries; or, as Mr Nakasone put it in his direct way, "Japan would never attack China".

Mr Hu said that he and Mr Deng Xiaoping had met President Kim Il Sung of North Korea, who had promised that there would be no invasion from the north and had added: "There is no power to do it".

Mr Hu said that although they had no details of the Rangoon bombing it had been made clear to President Kim that the Chinese were interested in the long-term stability of the Korean peninsula and that an

increase in tensions from any source should be avoided.

For his part Mr Nakasone told Mr Hu that the South Koreans were interested in improving their relations with China. At present there are no diplomatic relations between the two.

Mr Nakasone has gone to some lengths to praise the meeting as historic and, since Mr Hu is not head of state, elected to make a press statement in his own name which the visitor then endorsed.

This personal, relaxed style of diplomacy may well have helped to get over the embarrassment of the destruction of a 2,200-year-old statue which was smashed by a Japanese satellite in the week while on display in Osaka. The ceramic figure of a warrior was one of 14 pieces on display to mark the 400th anniversary of Osaka Castle.

● RANGOON: Six prosecution witnesses gave evidence yesterday in the trial here of two North Koreans accused of murdering 19 people in the Rangoon bombing (AP reports). A confession said to be from one of the accused, Captain Kang Min Chul of the North Korean Army, described how he and two other officers arrived in Rangoon on board a North Korean vessel and were to have been picked up by a ship in the Rangoon River after the attack.

Jeffery Daniels reviews The Genius of Venice, "this stupendous exhibition", which opens at the Royal Academy today



Left: Lotto's *The Mystic Marriage of St. Catherine with Niccolò Bonghi*, mannered and mutilated. Above: Jacopo Palma il Vecchio, probably a self-portrait.

The confident touch of genius

Serenity, security and self-confidence characterized the Republic of Venice in the sixteenth century, the period covered by this stupendous exhibition which is entirely worthy of its subject. Under the chairmanship of Professor John Hale, a team of scholars, both British and Italian, has worked together to assemble paintings, drawings and sculpture which illustrate the range of patronage throughout the city and the *terraferma*.

The Venetians were proud of their city and proud of their unique capacity for political survival and they celebrated both with appropriate lavishness. (The exhibition has been sponsored by the Sea Containers Group and Venice Simplon-Orient-Express Ltd.)

Even the catastrophic fire which destroyed most of the interior of the Doge's Palace in 1577 was duly recorded by Ludovico Tiepolo, called Pozzani, in a painting now in the Museo Civico, Treviso and shown at the beginning of the exhibition, together with the finest surviving example of the celebrated *Bird's-eye View of Venice*, dated 1580 and attributed to Jacopo de' Barbari (Dept. of Prints and Drawings, British Museum). Carpaccio's *Lion of St Mark* (1516) is flanked by two depictions of the bloody Battle of Lepanto, one a straightforward battle scene, the other an elaborate allegory of Veronese (Venice, Accademia di Belle Arti).

Having been thus to some extent orientated, the visitor enters the Large South Room, to be confronted with an immense range of questions. Students of the period may even get stuck here, studying the newly cleaned *Judgement of Solomon* from Kingston Lacy (National Trust) which has never previously been shown in public and is now attributed to Sebastiano del Piombo, having been acquired by William Bankes about 1830, in the advice of Lord Byron, as by Giorgione.

Two of Sebastiano's organ doors from the Church of S. Bartolomeo a Rialto, Venice, painted with *St Louis of Toulouse* and *St Sinibaldus*, represent the figures standing in niches similar to that formerly behind the figure of Solomon in the Kingston Lacy picture and now removed with the rest of the overpainting which has given the whole picture a strange, ghostly quality. The striking figure of the true mother on the right is similar in type to the guilty wife in the *Christ and the Adulteress* from Glasgow (City Art Gallery and Museum) which, when it belonged to Christiana Christina of Sweden, was called *Giorgione*, but is now given to Titian, although it has also been attributed to Sebastiano del Piombo.

In the same room hangs the beautiful *Virgin and Child with St Anthony and St Roch*, from the Prado, which is like the Glasgow picture, described in the catalogue as "Circle of Giorgione", attributed to Titian, and which certainly has close resemblances to Giorgione's Castelfranco altarpiece (obviously not exhibited), that

are admitted by the catalogue, Francis Richardson.

The exhibition thus provides a number of teasing problems for the scholar, but it also offers major delights for the less specialized visitor, who cannot fail to respond to the magnificent array of works by Titian and Veronese assembled in the huge central gallery. Titian's stern *St John the Baptist*, which looks so uncomfortable in the Accademia presides authoritatively, flanked by a whole series of his remarkable portraits, from the youthful *Ramucco Farnese as a Knight of Malta* (National Gallery of Art, Washington), through the strongly sensual *Knight with a Clock* (Prado) to the rather disapproving *Francesco Savonarola della Torre* (National Trust, Kingston Lacy). The great "discovery" of the exhibition is the extraordinary late Titian *The Flaying of Marsyas* from Czestochowa.

Lorenzo Lotto brings to the exhibition that element of the unexpected it needs. He was incomprehensible to some of his contemporaries, including Artico, but to the modern eye his almost perverse individuality is invigorating. A whole room is devoted to him, which is easily dominated by the astonishing *St Christopher*, *St Roch* and *St Sebastian* from Lissieu, where he spent the last years of his life. Lotto's mannered style is already evident in *The Mystic Marriage of St Catherine*, with *Niccolò Bonghi* (Bergamo, Accademia Carrara) painted in 1523 in Bergamo in part payment of his rent. Bonghi, the landlord,

stands awkwardly behind the Virgin's throne seemingly oblivious of the sacred tableau being enacted, and it accords perfectly with the unusual circumstances of the picture's origin that only five years later it should have been mutilated by a French soldier who cut out (very neatly) the landscape background.

If Lotto was intent on doing his own thing this is also true to a certain extent of Jacopo Bassano. In *Jacob's Journey* (H.M. the Queen) almost every figure appears to be offering his or her backside to the spectators. Contorted poses are also characteristic of Tintoretto, the third member of the great triumvirate of Venetian painters of the middle of the century, whose masterpiece, the decoration of the *Scuola di San Rocco* in Venice, could clearly not be represented in the exhibition. Nevertheless, his moving *Deposition* (1592) painted only two years before his death, has been brought out of the *Cappella dei Morti* of the Church of San Giorgio Maggiore and Baron Thyssen has lent a *modello* for the gigantic *Paradise*, painted for the Sala del Maggior Consiglio of the Doge's Palace between 1588 and 1592 to replace Guariento's fresco, that was irreparably damaged in the fire of 1577.

In addition there are drawings, including a vivid self-portrait (it is assumed) by Jacopo Palma il Vecchio, prints and sculpture, mainly small bronzes. Among the marble reliefs Tullio Lombardo's *Bacchus and Ariadne* outstanding for its poetic quality.

level had been all, if the performance had been a miniature, a super-refinement of a substantial intention, then something would have been said, and very beautifully too. But Miss Uchida's faultlessly calculated phrasing, her exquisitely turned and variegated ornamentation, in the slow movement gradually bled the movement of Mozart. Form suggested content, manner negated matter, and in the end all that was left was disembodied charm, a chill of an idea.

While the orchestra itself had seemed enervated by that performance, Beethoven's "Eroica" Symphony, in the hands of Sanderling, gave them and us something to think about.

It was in the finale that all the work's disquiet was drawn up into a set of variations which became a kind of collage of the surreal. After the scherzo's sprightly confidence came a movement of dynamic and dramatic activity. Melodies, in the intimacy of the strings, or in the babbling solo voice of a flute, were made to seem deceptive in the context of such dislocating orchestral counterpoints; and only a strange hollowed was found in the final pomp, circumstance and peroration.

Hilary Finch

Television Beguiling charm

"Unphony charm and unlaboured originality" reads Kingsley Amis's early commendation on the cover of the new Penguin edition ("Now filmed for television") of Edna O'Brien's *The Country Girls*. Channel 4's film of the book, produced by Aida Young and directed by Desmond Davis, is pure and unadorned unphony charm.

The sort that brings the birds off the trees and the critics out of their bunks.

Who could resist the graceful, Tess-like appeal of Maeve Germaine as the heroine (mother, drowned, drunken father) in this odyssey through adolescence? Who, outside sympathy with her, could resist her? Who was not beguiled by the schoolgirl's impetuous, brightly confident, big-dog-and-rain-washed-skies, the sweet Irish tones and the coming-of-age journey back into the comforting mists of the 1940s?

Nothing about the accomplished film could be called laborious, but "original" would be stretching it, not least because Edna O'Brien has mined the same scene since, but also because the charm is - essentially that of the True Romance. In True Romance ugly and painful emotions are magically swept aside, and here they were also.

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Philharmonia /Sanderling Festival Hall

Those planning to listen to the Capital Radio broadcast of Wednesday night's concert on January 8 should arm themselves with an amplifying earpiece and make sure that every clucking and every ticking clock is silenced.

Mitsuko Uchida's performance of Mozart's Piano Concerto in B flat, K.595, was by far the quietest I have heard, one's own breathing, even seemed an intrusion. In response to her, first reluctant entry, coming into focus as if out of deep meditation and almost in spite of itself, Kurt Sanderling gently lifted and parted string textures, and revealed many details of which he was clearly aware.

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Concert

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Theatre

The Dealer

Nuffield, Southampton

As a dark coda to this year's Viennese festivities, Thomas Wiseman offers a view of the city in 1938 enjoying its last moment of incandescent glitter before being extinguished under the Anschluss.

That is a rather melodramatic description of a piece that might have been written by a latter day Schnitzler.

Viennese by birth, Mr Wiseman deals in ironies, compromise and old fashioned charm, and feels no obligation to reopen the files on Dachau and Auschwitz. Prompted by the memory of his father, a gambling man who stayed on and perished after the rest of the family had escaped, he focuses on a section of the population who were too attached to their pleasurable way of life to queue up outside foreign embassies on the outside chance of landing a gardening job in Macao.

Two historical figures, Baron Louis Rothschild and Adolf Eichmann, appear, respectively dominating the first and second acts. But the play essentially follows the fortunes of a fictional trio: a woman journalist, Camilla, Wierthof, an impoverished young housemaid, and the dealer himself, Oskar, whom Wiseman relates to Himmler's masseur and Joel Brand as well as to his father.

The point about this trio is that they are close acquaintances rather than true friends. They meet amid the Klimt-like decor of Fran Thompson's set, making deals, conducting affairs,

and minimizing the growing danger of the barbarian advance. Nor, apart from Oskar, are they very likeable. Camilla is a pleasure-loving opportunist with a wicked tongue; Wierthof, son of an anti-Semitic general of the old school, rancorously ascribes his lack of promotion to the Jews.

A clue to what follows is already implied in the deal Rothschild makes with Oskar to bargain with Nazis for his safe keeping. And when the curtain goes up on the second act with swastikas imprinted over the secessionist murals, Oskar has taken over the role as the Rothschild negotiator haggling with Eichmann over the relief of his principal Jewish asset.

All the relations are transformed by the Nazi presence. Wierthof, still preserving his Jewish mistress, joins Eichmann's team in the hope of promotion into the Wehrmacht. Camilla redefines her Jewish identity, while Oskar, having concluded the Rothschild business, goes on to his master deal - curing Eichmann's constipation by hypnosis in exchange for freeing selected Jews. That may sound a trivial joke but Mr Wiseman exploits it brilliantly.

Oskar, played by Shann Curry was the requisite half smile, functions as the play's narrator, a perilous device which Mr Wiseman turns to his own advantage. Cyn Hayman could emit more sparkle as Vienna's answer to Dorothy Parker but, in David Gilmore's production, she shows impressive emotional power once the chips are down.

Irving Wardle

Red Saturday

New End

Martin Allen's play begins with two footballers facing a Sheffield semi-final and, with a brilliant local 19-year-old waxing and a household-name Londoner (who apparently does not rate a single room) waning, there is a deep well of facile comedy and confrontation that is skilfully but very predictably exhausted over the next two hours and half. Lunch is mentioned, to young Terry's mystification: "We call it dinner in middle of 'day if it's cooked". Told of quiche Lorraine he says cheerfully: "I'll have to tell 'bird that she's called Lorraine". Mentioning that he and his fiancée "have a pact", he finds Lee (who is something of a wit) retorting: "Well, get it unpacked".

This little world, and these characters, are carefully sketched, but after *Just a Kick in the Grass* such personal focus is narrow and, though our sympathy seems asked for Lee (John Salthouse) and invalided Noel, whom Terry is replacing (Mark Drewry), it is not hard to think of people who deserve it

as much if not more - their supporters, many in dead-end lives, for a start.

Pressure at the top - what did Ulysses say in *Troilus and Cressida* about stopping for a moment in the rat-race and getting trampled on? - is crushing, but there is a proverb ready for anyone who cannot stand the heat in the kitchen. Lee, who only entered the sport to spite his hated father, may lash out from fear but Terry, for all his naivety, has Yorkshire guts and words when baited that suggest he will last out better and straighter.

Tim Fywell, as director, shows sensitive expertise in the powerful sense of place and the cast's precise, absorbed performances.

Reece Dinsdale, as Terry, perfectly balances insecurity and toughness in brain and body language and John Salthouse is equally firm-rooted in personality and social setting as he faces a long black retirement in a luxury home with a sauna, an unloving wife and a greyhound called Beat the Clock that won a silver collar at Walthamstow.

Anthony Masters

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THE ARTS

Cinema Stylist oddities of a founding father

Before the
Nickelodeon
ICA Cinematheque

London Film
Festival
National Film Theatre

Videodrome
ABC Shaftesbury
Avenue

Triumphs of a Man
Called Horse
Classic, Tottenham
Court Road

The past few years have seen a renewal of interest in the very earliest years of cinema history - very gratifying to us older incunabulists who are thus at last relieved of the stigma of foggyish eccentricism for our preoccupation with the origins of the art. Researches like Charles Musser's film *Before the Nickelodeon*, the Early Cinema of Edwin S. Porter tend to reveal two things in particular: one is how sophisticated and entertaining some of these so-called primitives may be in their own right; the other, how wrong so much of cinema history has been until now.

Edwin S. Porter, for instance, has always been regarded as the originator of modern montage methods. Musser reveals that this view of him is largely based on a print of his *The Life of an American Fireman* of 1903, whose editing had been "modernized" at some time in the 1930s. Porter was unquestionably an innovator, probably more important than he has hitherto been acknowledged; but as an editor he pursued, until far too late, a method which was to have no future in the cinema.

Musser pieces together the rather sketchy record of Porter's career. From being an electrician with the navy, he became a movie exhibitor at a

time when films were still single-scene animated snapshots. Sucking together, merely for convenience, several scenes of the Spanish-American War, Porter stumbled on the momentous discovery that joining films can extend or modify the significance of the individual shots.

The narrative techniques which Porter developed for himself involved overlapping or even repeating a scene, from some different aspects. Thus, in the authentic version of *American Fireman*, Porter first shows us a scene in a bedroom where a fireman rescues in turn a mother and child and carries them out of the window. In the next shot we are shown precisely the same scene, as if would appear from the outside the window.

Despite this stylistic oddity (even, perhaps because of it: 60 years on, this wifful manipulation of time acquires its own fascination) Porter could be a highly effective story-teller. *Before the Nickelodeon* includes several of his little film dramas in their entirety; and the ICA are also showing a supporting programme of four additional Porter films.

Before the Nickelodeon was featured in the London Film Festival, in the same programme as Donald Taylor Black's *At the Cinema Palace - Liam O'Leary* a graceful and affectionate tribute to the impish, septuagenarian Peter Pan and one-man repository of Irish cinema lore. Other outstanding festival delights had included John Schlesinger's *An Englishman Abroad*, (to be shown on BBC 1 on November 29) from a script by Alan Bennett, based on Coral Browne's recollections of meeting Guy Burgess while playing *Hamlet* in Moscow; he film is urbane, funny and eventually very touching. Using Budapest locations, John Schlesinger captures with terrible accuracy and only a touch of caricature the atmosphere of Moscow; and Miss Browne's performance of herself when younger is wonderfully witty.

Having known Burgess in his Moscow days, I can vouch for the uncanny accuracy with



Entertainment down on the farm: Robert Seaton leads the players in Michael Darlow's *Accounts*, "among the best work produced under the auspices of Channel Four".

which Alan Bates hits off his mannerisms (though I guess neither he nor Bennett nor Schlesinger actually met the original). I am surprised, though, that Coral Browne found Burgess's flat so messy. I only remember it being kept spotless by an adoring *babushka*, and Burgess saying: "Never breathe it in London, dear boy, but there's no servant problem in Moscow". It was better furnished, too, than in the film, since Burgess had his own English furniture with him. "Foreign office shipped it out. They've been awfully decent about some things."

I must again urge festival patrons to seek out the shorts which feature only as footnotes in the programme. Especially notable is Jenny Wilkes's *Mother Wedding*, a brilliant if bleak impressionist essay on sexuality, as a young woman looks back over her own and her parents' erotic experiences, ranging from rape to romance, and, either way, rarely fulfilling.

David Glynn Jones's *The Wire* is an early little sketch, touching on the surreal, about the evolution and naive self-justification on a natural voyeur and wire-tapper. With something like 200

titles, the festival selectors have had to dip pretty deep into the barrel; so that it is surprising to discover some films that they have rejected. It seems inconceivable that they should turn down Euzhan Palcy's *Rue Cases Negres*, which won three prizes and was a tremendous popular success at the Venice festival.

It is inconceivable, too, that alongside the large British selection they chose to reject Michael Darlow's *Accounts*, which was shown to the press this week, will be transmitted next month, and is certainly among the best work produced under the auspices of Channel 4. Written by Michael Wilcox, it tells of a widow and her two sons who uproot from their Northumbrian home to take on a new farm on the Borders near Kelso.

Nerviness that it might drift into Archer country is needless. The film explores territory new to British cinema, in the matter of sentiments as well as geography. The relationship between the two young brothers - played with faultless integrity by two Newcastle actors, Bob Smerton and Michael McNally - is evoked with exceptional sensitivity and intensity.

The commercial companies meanwhile are sneaking out some of their less distinguished offerings. David Cronenberg is a director who has made his name thanks to a special effects expert, Rick Baker, with a line in simulating holes in bellies for nasty things to crawl in and out. In *Videodrome* the hero's belly is slit to admit video cassettes; the premise of the film is a modish idea about Mabuse-like villains seeking power through the video tube. The idea has potential; but Cronenberg's script is too half-witted and inconsequential to lead it anywhere.

Triumphs of a Man Called Horse is a jaded sequel, with intermittent flashbacks to its marginally superior predecessors. Richard Harris is got up like an elderly character actress from *The Boy Friend* and declaims as if the awful script were Shakespeare. Luckily he is killed by white renegades half way through, handing over his tribal responsibilities to a natty little man called Michael Beck who seems set to carry on the tedious but apparently interminable battle between Sioux and settlers.

David Robinson

Sir Claus Moser, Chairman of Covent Garden, in conversation with John Higgins looks at the Opera House in the light of the Priestley report.

A healthier outlook

By any measure Covent Garden has had a hard year. In the season which ended last July the Royal Opera planned for two new productions, half the normal number, and ended up with only one of their own when a *Manon Lescaut* had to be hastily borrowed from Hamburg. The Royal Ballet had a highly successful tour of America and the Far East, but there has been regular criticism (not least on this page) of the quality both of its repertoire and its performances at home. And there has been Priestley: a government team of nine inspectors investigating the running of the Opera House and the RSC.

The main recommendations of Priestley were announced a month ago and the detailed proposals are now emerging piecemeal between hefty red covers, volume by volume. How apprehensive was Covent Garden's Chairman, Sir Claus Moser, who had plenty of experience of civil service workings during his time as Government Chief Statistician, of the Priestley Report before it came out?

"Quite clearly if you have inspectors of this quality going through every aspect of your work at home, as well as visiting a number of major opera houses abroad for information, comparison and assessment, you are going to be put through your paces. Especially when they spend six months doing it. But I always had confidence that they would end by deciding we were underfunded. And that to my delight has happened. The basic conclusion of Priestley is that our present deficit should be wiped off, that our subsidy should be increased immediately by 17-18 per cent, and that from 1986 onwards we should ourselves find savings of £300,000 to £600,000 a year.

"Priestley has stated the case for maintaining a great opera and ballet house in this country better and more clearly than it has been stated for a very long time. The theme running through this report, so far as the

ROH is concerned, is that you cannot have half a great opera house. Possible cuts to make financial savings, such as the closure of our ballet touring arm or limiting the Opera to a festival basis have been rejected."

So much for the good news, which of course has yet to be implemented by the Minister for the Arts, the Earl of Gowrie, and the Government. Priestley was highly critical of some areas of operation, including over-pending in the costume department, which got a lot of press attention, and the failure to reach out to a larger public. "Obviously it was going to be suggested that we should order certain things differently. The attention given in some newspapers to ruffs and underskirts tells you more about journalists than about running an opera house. Show me an institution which has an absolutely clean bill of health on expenditure and I will show you a miracle. On the other hand the criticism of lack of operatic Outreach (Priestley is full of jargon words which are likely to find their way into administrative vocabulary for a month or two) into the community at large is absolutely right."

Sir Claus Moser may feel less acquiescent about Priestley's suggestion that the opera planning should be tailored more to the needs of the box-office and that there should be fewer excursions into the rarified corners of the repertoire. "This is the one area of Priestley I find unacceptable. It would have stopped us starting our season as we have done with a Stravinsky/Ravel double bill, and continuing it with *Lulu*. I think it also ignores the fact that a public fed on a diet of *Aidas* and *Bohemes* soon acquires a jaded palate."

The Priestley idea for separate funding for Britain's four principal companies (the ROH, the RSC, the National Theatre and the ENO) seems to have been pushed under the carpet for the moment. It would have meant the end of the Arts



Sir Claus: "You cannot have half a great opera house"

Council as a body with financial teeth, as that establishment in Piccadilly was quick to realize. Some would have been quite pleased to see its power reduced, but relations between the ROH and the Arts Council are considerably better than they were a year ago.

Possibly the biggest problem of all faced by Covent Garden in the mid 1980s lies right outside Priestley's orbit. This is the lacuna appearing in the administration between the departure of the present music director, Sir Colin Davis, in 1986 and the arrival of Bernard Haitink in 1988. It is thought by many that a gap of two years was to big a price to pay for Haitink's services, despite the fact that he has agreed to be available for consultation as well as 12 weeks of work during the interregnum years. Sir Claus defends the choice by saying that there was never any suggestion during the negotiations that Haitink would break or cut short his Glyndebourne contract, which runs until 1988.

There is also the matter of the periods of service of Sir Claus Moser himself and his general administrator, Sir John Tooley, which have implications for that interregnum. The Moser chairmanship runs until 1984, but the Board have already asked him to extend it until 1987, not least so that he can put into practice some of the Priestley recommendations.

Sir John's position is more complex. His present contract runs until 1986. But when it is due for review by the Board it seems more than likely he will be asked to renew it until 1989, by which time he will be 65 and by far the longest-serving general administrator of any major European opera house.

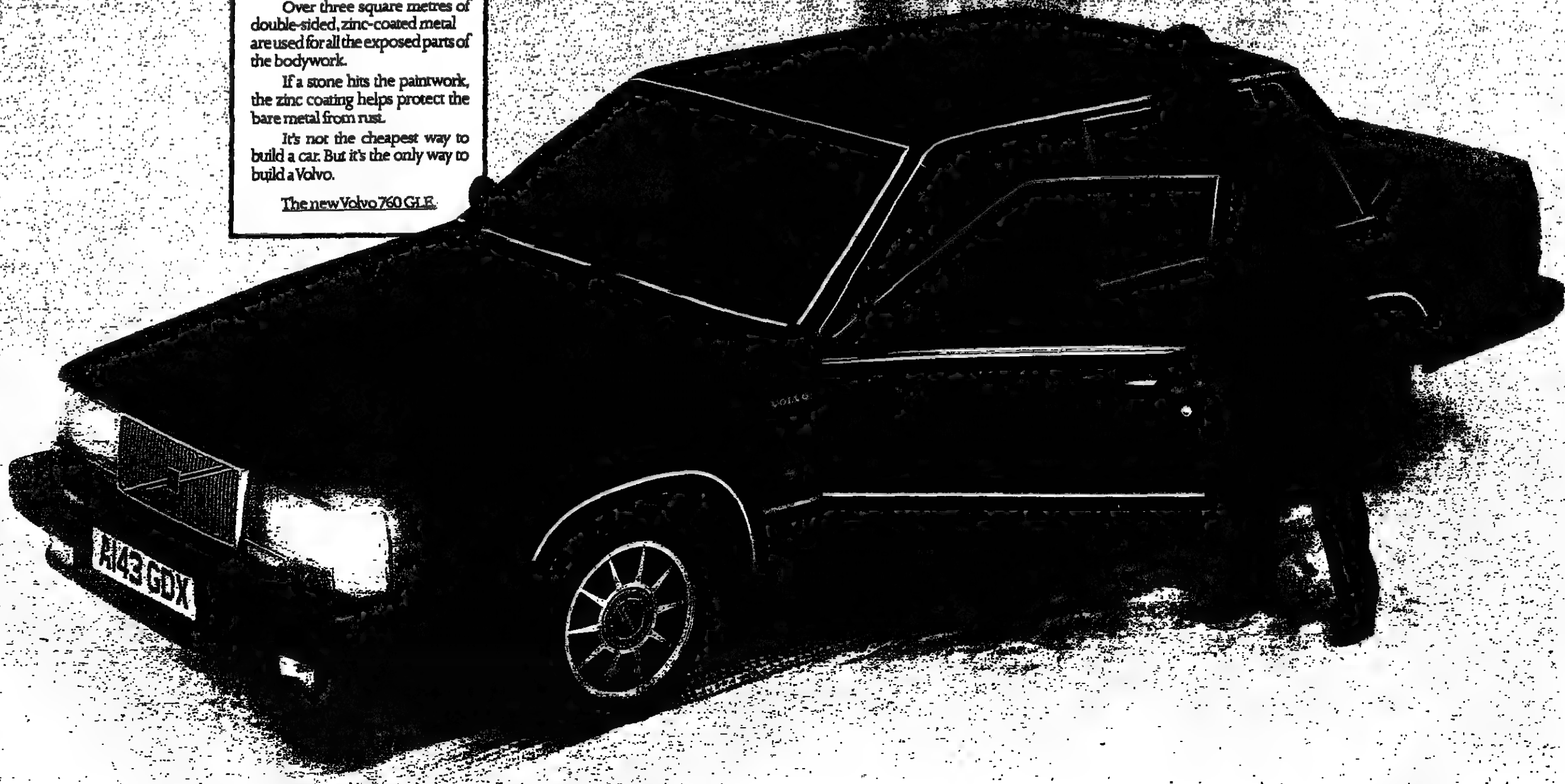
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SPECTRUM

When the boat people set sail from Vietnam they believed they were leaving tyranny behind to head for freedom and a new life. But for 6,000 of them impounded in closed camps in Hongkong, the desperate voyage had merely traded one prison for another. A new prison with no hope of early release

A slow boat to nowhere

By Stephanie Williams

It takes one hour by boat to travel from the centre of Hongkong to the remote corner of the island of Lantau to visit the Chi Ma Wan Closed Centre for Vietnamese refugees.

Here, tucked into low cliffs behind the beach, nearly 2,500 Vietnamese men, women and children are living on what used to be a football pitch behind barbed-wire fences 17ft high.

There is a similar encampment across the straits on the island of Heiling Chau, a former leper colony that is now a rehabilitation centre for drug addicts. These "closed centres" are, in fact, prisons.

Of the 13,500 Vietnamese refugees living in Hongkong today, more than 6,000 are now detained in these two closed centres and a third, smaller one on an isolated peninsula on Hongkong island. All those detained have arrived since July 1982; all are prohibited from finding work outside and are subject to discipline and control.

The decision to impound the Vietnamese was taken in the face of continuing arrivals of boat people and the drying-up of quotas for resettlement in the West. Until July, 1982, Hongkong had sheltered Vietnamese boat people in "open" camps in the urban areas where the refugees were able to live rent-free, go out to work and earn money to get back on their feet.

Locally, these camps have never been popular. Since 1980 the Hongkong authorities have been pursuing a rigorous policy to restrict immigration from China, a policy that includes spot checking of identity cards and the forbidding of wives and children of recent immigrants to join their spouses and parents in Hongkong. From the open camps it has been too easy for the Vietnamese simply to be absorbed into the community.

At the same time, since 1979 other countries of South-East Asia, Thailand, Malaysia, the Philippines have been keeping the Vietnamese in varying degrees of closed detention, while others have refused the boat people any kind of asylum. For too long,

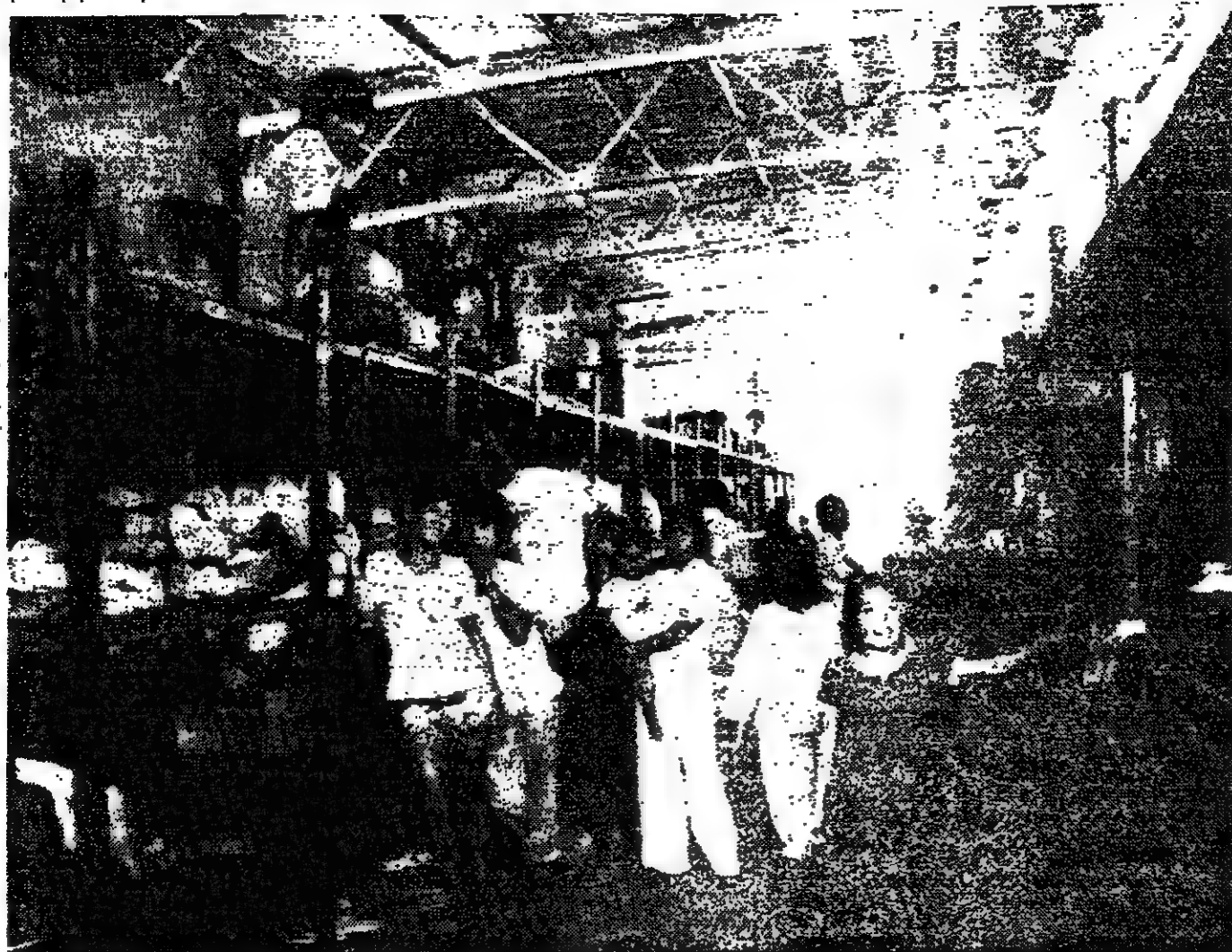
Hong Kong had looked the most attractive destination in the region. As one security officer put it, there was a growing feeling that "if you could not get to the United States, then Hong Kong would do instead." By spreading the word that from July, 1982, Vietnamese arriving in Hong Kong would no longer be free it was hoped to discourage new arrivals.

I visited Chi Ma Wan on a Friday morning. The centre consists of 15 corrugated iron huts: eight dormitories, one large eating hall, a building for newcomers who are quarantined for six days after arrival, a kitchen, two blocks of latrines, a shower room and the hospital. The Salvation Army maintains a small workshop. There are a few trees near one perimeter wall; otherwise there is no shade and no relief from hard concrete surfaces. The only space for recreation is beneath a basket ball net outside the eating hall.

The refugees are free to move about within the fences, but are only allowed out in working parties under guard to sweep the road, cut grass, to collect rations from the jetty or, if seriously ill, to go to hospital on Hongkong island. They may receive one 30-minute visit per week from relatives or close friends. Within the camp, there are only plastic cups and containers; knives in the kitchen are kept under lock and key; other tools are permitted only under supervision.

All parcels and letters coming into the centre are opened and searched for weapons and drugs; outgoing mail is checked, in the words of the officer in charge of the camp, "to see if they say anything that is not true about the camp". Children born in the camp have their births registered in Hongkong, but they are not accorded the right of Hongkong citizenship. When they have been accepted as immigrants to a country in the West, the refugees are released - on to planes at the airport.

Ten a.m. inside the eating hall, and the noise is deafening. In one half, four classes around blackboards competed to hear English lessons; in the other,



A Hongkong camp: 130 bunks for 280 people - single men on top, couples in the middle, children at the bottom

groups were gathered around women from a Dutch welfare group which organizes knitting, smocking and sewing on three mornings a week. Men do woodworking or painting. The products are sold through welfare handicraft shops and the money goes to pay the refugees \$HK1.50 (15p) for each morning's work.

The work relieves the tedium of life in the camp but attendance is unreliable and the atmosphere was heavy. About 170 refugees earn between 80 pence and £2 a week for work in the camp as cooks, interpreters, dormitory spokesmen or cleaners.

At noon and 6 p.m. the refugees are allowed to watch one hour of television

About 40 were waiting on wooden benches to see the doctor in a separate compound within the camp: about the same number were lining up to wait for their mail to be released.

Inside each dormitory are ranged triple tiers of bunks - each a 4ft by 6ft shelf of hardboard - in three rows. The bunks are rammed up hard against one another so they form three shelves the length of the building. Two of the rows line up so that the head of one bunk touches the foot of the one behind. They look like warehouses stacked up with people.

In the hut I visited there were 132 bunks occupied by 280 people: single men on the top, couples in the middle, children at the bottom. Each family's

she shares hers with two sisters and her mother, who is Chinese and the reason why they left Vietnam. Her father, an engineer, is still there.

We spoke to no one who complained about conditions in the camp. Universally the food was praised. Was there nothing they wanted? Books, said one, "Freedom," said another.

One old lady, who has a brother in Australia, spoke privately in Mandarin to my colleague. "The only thing that bothers us is getting out. We are waiting for a change of policy. The food is very good. The number of books could be better. But the only thing we have in our minds, day and night, is to leave. And, if we could leave a little faster, it would be nice."

The tragedy is that this is not likely to happen. Chi Ma Wan's volunteers are now organising a programme for permanent education for the children. Fifty per cent of the Vietnamese now coming to Hongkong arrive from North Vietnam. The United States, which has so far taken nearly 60 per cent of the boat people, will not accept them.

Half the Vietnamese already in Hong Kong do not fulfil the requirements to settle in the West: either they have no relatives overseas, or they cannot prove they worked for the South Vietnamese administration. Because many of the more recent refugees have left to escape the extreme poverty of conditions in Vietnam, they are not defined as refugees but as economic migrants and do not qualify for resettlement. In any case, Western countries, like Britain, with economic problems of their own and suffering from "compassion fatigue", have already filled their quotas of refugees agreed at the UN conference in 1979.

For Hong Kong the problem is that her numbers of boat people, who nobody wants, are gradually increasing. Unfortunately for the boat people themselves, it may only now be beginning to dawn that they may have traded life under one kind of tyranny for a prison of another sort.



'The only thing we have in our minds is to leave'

space also accommodated its meagre possessions in neat cardboard boxes. Towels, a roll of lavatory paper, water bottles, were commonly strung along pieces of string across the bunks. Babies slept in string hammocks strung across the space.

It was all very quiet. People were dozing, reading, writing letters, studying English. One young girl was painstakingly pouring what turned out to be expensive perfume received in the morning's post from a paper cup into a plastic medicine bottle.

Her neighbour, Pham Ngoc Anh, a pretty 22-year-old girl from Hanoi, has been in the centre since last May. She came to Hongkong with her two brothers who sleep in the bunk above;

she shares hers with two sisters and her mother, who is Chinese and the reason why they left Vietnam. Her father, an engineer, is still there.

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The noses have it

After a summer advertising offensive by Britain's largest manufacturer, the British snuff industry is gathering itself for a campaign to convince the public the snuff-taking is no mere relic of the Victorian age.

Early analysis of its £20,000, five-month campaign has persuaded J. and H. Wilson of Sheffield that its efforts, aimed primarily at the young, seem to have been justified. "The response", says the company's general manager, Jerry Jones, "proves without doubt that an immense interest is developing." This initiative is reinforced by a more moderate sweep by the Snuff Grinders and Blenders Association, which hopes to revive the boom days of the late seventeenth to early nineteenth centuries when men and women of every age and caste enjoyed their snuff.

Wilson's summer campaign offered "refreshment at your fingertips" to the predominantly young and fashionable readers of *Tatler*, *Avant Garde*, *Cosmopolitan*, *The Stage*, *Time Out*, *New Musical Express*, *Melody Maker* and *National Student*. Readers of each publication were enticed with the offer of a free tin of Medicated No. 99. Six thousand responded.

Wilson has been trying to promote the idea of snuff as a "smart and sensual pleasure" in its advertising, hoping to dismiss the image of an unpalatable habit practised by a vanishing breed. In the process the company, which celebrates its 150th anniversary this year, has been criticized for aiming at the young, and for employing what has been interpreted as an occasionally clumsy adaptation of the jargon of the drug culture. Sample: "Wow! It's heady snuff!"

Apart from such attempts to bring the habit back into vogue, snuff is also starting to find favour among those cigarette smokers who are beginning to

heed their wheezing chests and ailing hearts, but who cannot altogether renounce tobacco.

The loudest medical support for snuff as a possible smoking substitute has come from Dr Michael Russell and Dr Martin Jarvis of the Institute of Psychiatry's addiction research unit. The great benefit of snuff-taking, they claim, is the absence of combustion, which means the elimination of the smoking-related cancers (the lung variety kills nearly 30,000 Britons each year), bronchitis and, possibly, heart diseases.

Snuffing also happens to be an efficient way of acquiring nicotine. Drs Jarvis and Russell calculate that peak levels of absorption into the blood are achieved in less than eight minutes - slightly less than cigarettes and considerably less than cigars. While not writing off the possible danger of nasal cancer and other "nasal irritations", they are optimistic about snuff's relative benefits. "Our findings", they wrote in *The Lancet*, "suggest a new age for snuff as a feasible alternative to cigarette smoking. Snuff could save more lives, avoid more ill health than any other preventive measure likely to be available to developed nations well into the twenty-first century."

Yet the perception of snuff's impact on health, like the habit itself, seems to change with passing fashions. Moliere may or may not have been joking when he called it "the craving of upright men. It not only rejoices and purifies brains of men but it also instructs their souls into righteousness and by taking snuff we acquire virtue."

At the same time physicians were condemning it for "reducing the brain to a sooty, dry condition, increasing one hundredfold death from apoplexy and cancer". Manufacturers answered these complaints with medicated concoctions (still the most popular types in Britain)



which were sold as cure-alls. Grimstone's Eye Snuff, for instance was "most sovereign for clearing the head of all humours and strengthening the sight", while Samuel Majors offered his Imperial brand as a "remedy for all disorders of body and mind".

The snuffing habit was learnt from American Indians. It seems to have been seized on by the Irish and Scots as an invigorator, and by the English as an aromatic barrier against the prevailing urban stench.

A gentleman was known by his snuff, laying it down as he would a cellar of wine, and inevitably the habit spread to the "lower orders". The product became increasingly adulterated - with coal or powdered glass - and ultimately jettisoned from smart circles. *Hints on Etiquette*, published in 1835, called snuffing "an idle, dirty habit practised by stupid people in the unavailing endeavour to clear their stolid intellect. A gentleman cannot take much

stuff without decidedly losing caste".

By this time smoking was drawing level. It suited the new Victorian surface decorum: neat white handkerchiefs and contemplative curls of smoke replaced gaudy brown-stained nappies and the snort and jabber of coffee-house wit. There was still a substantial British snuff habit, however, until the Second World War, particularly among people - lawyers and miners, for example - to whom smoking is forbidden, and in dusty factories where snuff might clear the nasal passages.

Snuff consumption in Britain, measured at 1.2 million lb. in 1944, was down last year to 0.1 million lb., but Wilson estimates that there are still half a million regular users. Most of them, of course, are well past middle-age, hence the emphasis on attracting custom among the young. The angle of the advertising campaign, with its suggestions of sensual satisfaction, has also prompted the thought that the manufacturers might be hoping to make a connexion, subliminal or otherwise, with cocaine - currently the most modish youth-culture drug.

"That was nowhere in our thoughts", insists Jerry Jones, although he admits to "speaking with a degree of naivety on this one". The Health Education Council takes a stronger view. "A disgusting, anti-social habit", said its spokesman. "While it is a less hazardous way of getting a daily nicotine dose, there is evidence that it can cause nasal cancers. What we object to is putting it in young people's magazines with a readership of kids who will send off for anything, particularly if they think it's glamorous."

Andrew Tyler

moreover...
Miles Kington

Interviews: an expert speaks

Q. What is an interview?
A. An interview is an encounter between an unknown person and a famous person, for which the unknown person gets paid, but the celebrity does not.

Q. Why should a celebrity undergo this ordeal?
A. To keep in touch with the public while only having to meet one of them. To put straight mistakes made by the previous interviewer. To publicize a book or film, because he has been told to.

Q. What does the interviewer get out of it?
A. An autograph for his children.

Q. What does it mean when an interviewer says: "He paused and thought deeply before replying"?
A. It means the celebrity is trying to remember the answer he always gives to this question.

Q. Does he always give the same answers?
A. Yes.

Q. Why?
A. Because he is always asked the same questions.

Q. How does and interviewer prepare for an interview?
A. He looks up cuttings of previous interviews with the celebrity to see what kind of questions have been asked before.

Q. And then?
A. He asks them again.

Q. What if the interviewer actually does ask different, new questions?
A. The celebrity pauses and thinks deeply, then gives the same old answers.

Q. What is the question most often asked in interviews?
A. "What sort of difference has fame made to your private life?"

Q. What is the answer to that question?
A. "It means I have to suffer interviews by odious little nerks like you."

Q. Does he actually say that?
A. No. He says: "I have very little private life, but I owe everything to the public, and never resent their intrusion."

Q. Does the celebrity manage to correct mistakes made by previous interviewers?
A. Yes.

Q. Does this make him happy?
A. No. A new interviewer always makes new mistakes.

Q. What is the difference between a good interviewer and a bad interviewer?
A. A bad interviewer, when writing his piece, always mentions where it took place. "As we took tea together in the Ritz", or "Sitting in his elegant work-room, hung with Hockneys", or "From his hotel bedroom overlooking the Thames". This gives the false impression that the interview will somehow be different from other interviews; a good interviewer would not give this impression.

Q. Are there any other kinds of interview?
A. Yes, the *Radio Times* interview. This always takes place during the actual production of the star's programme, as if to create the impression that the interviewer is talking to him during the white-hot moment of creation.

Q. And is this the impression created?
A. No. We get the impression that the star is too busy to see the interviewer.

Q. How does the interviewer describe the celebrity?
A. As smaller than I had expected.

Q. What do celebrities most like talking about?
A. Their new books or films. But they find this difficult.

Q. Why?
A. Because interviewers prefer talking about their old books and films.

Q. How long does an interview take?
A. About an hour less than the interviewer contrives to suggest.

Q. Why do so many interviewers end: "And there, regretfully, I had to leave it."
A. Because he is being kicked out.

Q. Why?
A. Because someone else is waiting to interview the celebrity. And there, regretfully, we shall have to leave it.

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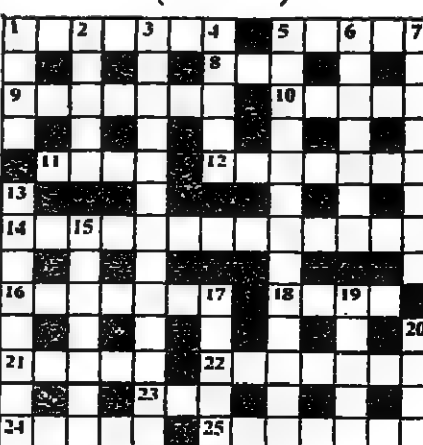
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BACK

for school?

the tickets

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 211)



- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1 Superintendent (7) | 1 Current fashion (4) |
| 5 Picnic (3) | 2 Exploding stars (5) |
| 8 Picas (3) | 3 Gain excitement from (3,1,4,3,2) |
| 9 Ardent (7) | 4 Performed again (5) |
| 10 Stint (5) | 5 Property remover (5,8) |
| 11 Furtive glance (4) | 6 In an agitated manner (7) |
| 12 Diminish (7) | 7 Represent another (8) |
| 14 Diligent (13) | 8 Frozen sweet (3,5) |
| 16 Resume with (4,3) | 15 Lawsuit dismissal (7) |
| 18 To the interior (4) | 16 Damp smelling (5) |
| 21 Eject violently (5) | 17 Discussion topic (5) |
| 22 Of highest status (7) | 20 Bunks (4) |
| 23 Not at home (3) | |
| 24 Distinctive idea (5) | |
| 25 Close-pitched balls (7) | |

SOLUTION TO No 210

ACROSS: 1 Trader 5 Canopy 8 On 9 Bifida 10 Impale 11 Mew 12 High-rise 14 Chiang Kai-Shek 17 Clueless 19 Rifle 21 Cynnet 23 Erotic 24 Car 25 Unveil 26 Enrols
DOWN: 2 Raise 3 Delicate 4 Road-hog 5 Ching 6 Nip 7 Pelt 13 Reservoir 15 Halcyon 16 Austere 18 Exalt 20 Frit 22 Nee

فكرنا من الأصل

FRIDAY PAGE

The unexpected midwife

Today's liberated parents may pride themselves on encouraging their daughters to become medical students rather than student nurses, but how many would feel quite so enthusiastic about nurturing their sons' ambitions to become midwives?

Whether we approve of sexual stereotyping or not, we still associate some occupations with one sex rather than the other. We expect long-distance lorry drivers to be male; we expect midwives to be female. It was hardly surprising, therefore, that when Philip Chalmers told his mother he was going to train as a midwife, her reaction was rather cool.

Finally, as he packed to leave for the training course in London, she confessed that she would not have liked a man to deliver any of her four children. Undeterred, Philip went ahead and became the eighth man to qualify as a midwife at the Whittington Hospital in north London. He is still a rarity.

So what were his reasons for wanting to become a midwife? Philip grins. Small, slight, blond and bespectacled, he bears little resemblance to the matronly figure of the cartoon midwife.

Now aged 23, he was born in Oxford but moved to Merseyside while still a child. He originally considered training as a teacher or social worker but plumped for nursing in the end because he had had enough of school and could start training as a nurse at 16 years old.

He qualified as State Registered Nurse, worked as staff nurse on both acute surgical and genito-urinary wards. Then he decided he would like to work in an Accident and Emergency unit.

He explains: "When I did my general nursing training, men were given no training in obstetrics at all. I felt that if I wanted to work in A and E it was important to know how to cope if a woman was brought in in good, strong labour, for instance."

Training locally as a midwife turned out to be impossible. No one would accept him. Eventually, Philip contacted the Central Midwives Board which referred him to the Whittington. In 1981, when Philip started his course, this was

one of only two hospitals where men could train as midwives. (The other was in Scotland).

Men were admitted under an experimental scheme, set up in 1976 to see whether midwifery should, despite the Sex Discrimination Act, remain the preserve of women.

Regional health authorities can no longer refuse to accept men on midwifery courses simply on the grounds of their sex. Women, it was felt, would now accept male midwives just as they accept male doctors.

Yet it is still too early to say whether there will now be a sudden influx of men into midwifery. Despite governmental decrees, there is still some hostility towards male midwives.

Philip says: "Women are asked when they come for their booking in appointment at the antenatal clinic whether they have any objections to being seen by a male midwife. Very few say 'yes' - usually women with strong religious or cultural reasons who would also ask to be seen by a woman doctor."

"The question of husbands objecting never seems to arise. Most men who come in with their wives once labour has started are actually quite submissive."

"In some ways you have to work harder to overcome any feelings a woman might have about you as a man - the 'you can't have a baby, you can't breastfeed, so how can you tell me what I should do?' attitude."

"It probably is easier for a woman to identify with another woman, but I've found that you simply have to show you know what you're talking about. After all, half the female midwives haven't had babies, either."

Certainly the women I spoke to, waiting patiently for their antenatal appointments in the clinic at the hospital, seemed unconcerned at the prospect of a male midwife. Kim White, a postman's wife, aged 24 summed it up: "What difference could it make? When you're pregnant, all you are worried about is the baby. As long as the people looking after you know what they are doing it doesn't matter what sex they are. You are seen by male



Philip Chalmers: "You simply have to show you know what you're talking about. After all, half the female midwives haven't had babies, either"

doctors, why not male midwives? In fact, I think men can actually be more sympathetic than women."

Margaret Hatamain, a secretary aged 27, agreed. "I prefer men. I have a male dentist, doctor, hairdresser. Why not a male midwife? A lot of female midwives are single or else they've never had a child of their own. They are only telling you what they've learnt. A man can do that just as well."

Much of the opposition to male midwives has come not from women who have babies, but from professionals. One of the questions worrying the Royal College of Midwives, for instance, was that of chaperonage. The need to chaperone male midwives, it was argued, could create staffing difficulties at a time when resources are already stretched.

Philip Chalmers thinks this argument is a red herring. "It's all nonsense. In any case it hardly ever arises. When you are a student midwife, you should never be left unsupervised anyway, and once you have qualified you usually have students with you. If you are a responsible person who has built up a good relationship with a woman, she'd have to have a pretty warped sense of humour to accuse you of anything. And you'd certainly have

to be pretty weird to try to take advantage."

Feminists, too, while presumably supporting the principle of equal opportunity elsewhere, have argued against the introduction of male midwives. Men, they say, have always resented the power women have traditionally held as healers, herbalists and midwives.

Admitting male midwives into the profession, according to some feminists, is like opening the doors to the enemy. Even midwives who would never dream of calling themselves feminist, suspect - rather more prosaically - that men who want to qualify as midwives see the job as an opportunity of furthering a career in general nursing, rather than a vocation in itself.

Philip feels it is unfair to use this as a reason for discouraging men to train as midwives. "Fifty per cent of all qualified midwives don't practise and so far there have been so few qualified men that it is ridiculous to make assumptions about whether men will practise once they are qualified or not."

"I don't want to rise all the way up the career ladder. Some women just resent men in general and are very bitter about their being

involved in what they assume is a female role."

Since he qualified five months ago, Philip has been working on the ante-natal ward at the Whittington. So far he has no plans to move on. "I want to stay until I can say I'm really a midwife. Then I'd like to go abroad where I could use the qualification to the full. The role of the midwife is fairly limited in most civilized countries."

Meanwhile he expects the whole fuss about male midwives to die down as a few more men enter the profession and it becomes a relatively normal thing for men to do.

And, he says with a smile, he is a normal man and does have a girlfriend. "In general nursing you always get those silly comments on a ward, suggestion that all female nurses are easy and all male nurses are gay. It's very annoying when you are simply trying to do your work. But it doesn't happen so much on midwifery."

"I've learnt a lot and it's given me a lot of confidence. It's nice to know how to deliver a baby - although that's only the tiniest part of being a midwife. And now my mother is quite proud of me!"

Lee Rodwell

MEDICAL BRIEFING



Graham and Janet Walton

A policy for sextuplets

Graham and Janet Walton must be wondering how they are going to afford to bring up their sextuplets and perhaps wishing they had insured themselves against such a large family. Eagle Star Insurance offers a twins policy and will pay up to £1,000 on the birth of twins, with the benefit doubled for triplets or more.

The level of premium takes into account the mother's age and the history of twins in both parents' families. The minimum premium is for women younger than 23 with no known twins in either family and it costs £2.50 for every £100 of benefit.

Premiums rise if any predisposing factors are known, so Eagle Star is happy to consider mothers who have had infertility treatment. The sky's the limit if you want to bet with Ladbroke's you can place as much as you like, provided you meet two criteria: that the bet is placed in the first 11 weeks of pregnancy and that you provide a doctor's certificate declaring you have not been given a fertility drug.

The odds are 33-1 if there is no history of twins and goes down to 20-1 if there is.

Pill guide

Women attending family planning clinics may finally be able to pick up the Family Planning Association's new leaflet Pills in Perspective next week.

The leaflet - also available from family doctors - gives a practical guide to women on what to do in the light of the two recently published scientific studies which linked the combined pill with breast and cervical cancer.

The fact that the leaflet has taken over a month to prepare and has been revised several times shows just how difficult it has been for family planning experts to translate the two studies into practical advice.

The major difficulty has concerned Dr Malcolm Pike's study, which linked long-term use of certain pills in young women under the age of 25 with an increased risk of breast cancer.

Dr Pike said that pills containing the most potent progestogens were linked with a higher incidence of breast cancer. But now many expert scientists argue that the table of progestogen potencies Dr Pike used was out of date and that for the moment it is impossible to say what his results really mean.

Don't be surprised, therefore, when you see that the list of preferred pills in Pills in Perspective include pills which, according to original newspaper reports, would have been deemed "potent".

The FPA is advised by experts, and their advice for the time being is that all women, both under and over 25, should, if they take the pill, be on one which contains the lowest dose of both hormones - oestrogen and progestogen, to suit them.

The FPA suggests that women under 25 should finish their present three month or six-month course of pills and then discuss things with their doctor. It advises all women to examine their breasts each month and to have a regular cervical smear.

Knife danger

The tragic death of a teenage butcher's boy has prompted doctors from East Birmingham Hospital to warn of the dangers of the trade.

Their cautionary tale could equally apply in the kitchen. The boy's knife slipped while he was boning meat and he stabbed himself in the right groin. Although the wound was only small he bled profusely because the femoral artery had been severed. He was working alone and help arrived too late to save his life.

The injury, Butcher's Thigh, is well known to surgeons; the meat trade should be aware of it. Drs David Sherlock and Martin Shalley report in the *Lancet* it can be easily repaired by surgeons and the injured person will survive as long as firm pressure is applied promptly and effectively to stop the bleeding. The doctor says warning notices should be put up in areas where meat is prepared.

Baby hope

Brain damage and handicap may not in future be the inevitable consequence for a child if the birth is difficult and the baby is starved of oxygen, doctors at University College Hospital in London have discovered.

Each year thousands of babies are left handicapped for life because they were "birth asphyxiated" and until now it had been assumed that nothing could be done to prevent brain damage.

But at the annual meeting of Action Research for the Crippled Child last week, Professor Carmichael Reynolds, Professor of Neonatal Paediatrics at UCH, described studies on seven babies who were badly starved of oxygen during birth which indicate that although the brain damage is triggered by the initial lack of oxygen, the baby's brain cells don't actually start to die until several hours later.

Professor Reynolds and his colleagues discovered this "latent period" when using nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy - a technique well known to analytical chemists but rarely before used on human beings - to measure the energy content of the babies' brain cells.

To their surprise the energy content of the brain cells of those babies who suffered a lack of oxygen as they were born did not start to fall immediately after their birth.

The discovery means that doctors have a few vital hours in which to act to prevent brain damage.

Shell shock

Another warning on the dangers of eating raw shellfish - this time oysters - has come from public health experts.

A report in the *British Medical Journal* describes how hundreds of people who enjoyed Pacific oysters at parties in London - all on the same premises - last January, subsequently paid for the pleasure.

Around 1,300 people were fed and 40 per cent of those later contacted were ill. Their gastroenteritis developed a day and a half after the reception and on average, each person had to take a day off work. One person was admitted to hospital.

The public health scientists believe that the illness was caused by a virus carried by the oysters and that this was not washed out of the oysters after harvesting, although bacterial contaminants were eradicated.

There is an urgent need to find ways of removing viruses from oysters, they say.

Olivia Timbs and Lorraine Fraser

I miss the glow other husbands get at the door

I know when there is a crisis. The bed is empty when I wake in the morning and there is a note on the top of the fridge. It generally contains two pieces of information. First, the unspeakable name of some hotel in an unknown country and second, a list of malfunctions about the house. Our friends believe that we have lived together now continuously for nearly 20 years because it is just not possible to generate a divorce-worthy row through fridge notes.

My wife has a career and is demonstrably better at it than most men. She is responsible for budgets running into tens of millions of pounds from Dacca to Dublin, as well as the United Kingdom.

She has her own bank account, of course, but somewhere along the way she has got herself a joint account on mine, for - she said - the household expenses. This trapped me with the first law of woman: no matter how much a woman earns, she will spend your money too.

The note on the fridge just states that the waste disposal unit won't dispose, the tap leaks in the bathroom and the man who came to



clean the carpets (to supervise whom I had to take time off work) allowed the legs of the table to leave brown stains. There has emerged a sort of demarcation line between what is, or rather what she says is, man's work and what isn't. It tends to be the time-consuming, boring things that fall to me, while she orders the wine.

You would think that, given all this free time, I could enjoy a Bachelor's life, but the house is so feminine as to be misleading. Just look at the bathroom: six bottles of shampoo, three of conditioner, a



heap of leg shavers, 27 oblong packets containing partly used eye-shadow, a jug containing brushes, pots of blusher, foundation cream, cleanser and moisturizer, soaps of lavender and sticks of sticks of lipstick. The board is the result of a propensity to stock against the next world famine in essentials and a determination to try out all the products of her trade.

For me it constitutes a barrier against making new friends of the right sort. Innocent folk at the office believe that I am married. They come in for a drink but never actually see "her". Wives of course, are expected always to be at home to welcome their men. Mine never is. Yet there is all that stuff in the bathroom. Eventually an unspoken rumour hovers in the air. I don't have a wife but a secret transvestite passion.

I must confess to missing, though, that warm glow other husbands get when they are received at the door after a hard day, by their loving wives.



It is not like that for a man with a managing director wife. There is no relaxing chat about how little Tristram was late at school and how his friend Samantha next door was found to have mite. Oh, no. She wants his views on the implications of the drop in the price of oil for talcum powder in Italy.

Then one day he comes home, having as usual assimilated the City Business Library on the way, to be met at the door with the full blast of a woman scorned. He has missed an anniversary, forgotten he promised

to take her out to dinner/opera. Outside the home things get even livelier. Madam works for a conglomerate with a human face. From time to time the firm recognizes that great support is given in the home. Invitations are sent personally to join in the fun.

Unfortunately the organization has not yet grasped the fact that it employs a female managing director. I get an invitation which gives a list of activities to keep me amused while Madam is discussing current cost accounting with her peers. I may attend a fashion show at 11 am, followed by some tips from Leonardo from the Salon about a hairstyle suitable for my facial contours.

The man with a managing director wife in his life is a lonely man. There are few men foolish enough to stay around long on this battlefield. Other men, with only women to manage: their lives, treat him with a mixture of awe, envy, disdain, suspicion, amusement, concern, curiosity and anxiety. He knows, though, that he is a pioneer.

Tom Shaw

TALKBACK

Late for school?

From Mrs D. A. Robinson, 31 Inglewood, Woking, Surrey I was interested to read Mary Gilbert's Comment "A Right to Learn" (Friday Page, November 18). My daughter, born on June 1, was five years three months old when she started school in September 1982.

It has gradually dawned on me since that not only did she miss the special teaching and understanding of a reception class - because she was already five, she joined a class that had mostly been at school since January - but she will be in the First School a year less than her friends who are only six months older.

No free tickets

From Alan G. Smith, 68 Denmead House, Highcliffe Drive, London SW15 I can assure Mrs Virginia Smith (Talkback, November 11) that her distaste for the expression "meal-ticket" is shared by those who, like me, are expected to be paying for it. Nevertheless, that is what it is.

By her own admission she is capable of supporting herself and her former husband is supporting his children by

paying the outgoings on the home in which they live. His support will not cease at 16 years as she claims, but when the children cease full-time education, which may be at 16. Whenever it is, their father's legal duty to support them ceases. Why, therefore, should he continue to provide his former wife with free accommodation?

If, as Mrs Smith speculates, the children are unable to find work, that is a matter for the social security schemes to which we all contribute. If he chooses to offer additional help to them, that is for him to decide on a voluntary basis. It is not, nor since 1948, has it ever been, his duty in law.

No credit

From Norma Moss, 19 Delany Street, London NW1 In Talkback (November 9) Sara Bird commented "do you really want your sense of identity to be determined only by what job you do? Isn't that letting someone else decide your reasonable value?"

I am unemployed. I went to a well-known electrical firm to rent a TV. Armed though I was with a cheque, bank card and credit card, when I stated I was a housewife and not employed (what price housework?) I was told that I could not sign the agreement my husband had to come from his office to do it.

What does that do for one's sense of identity?

Crumbs

The quantity of fresh breadcrumbs needed for the Christmas pudding recipe published on Wednesday is 170 g (6 oz). White or wholemeal crumbs may be used. We apologise for the omission.

If she gets her present now, your Christmas is made.

Here's a clever way to treat your wife - and yourself - to something special.

Simply buy her a Kenwood Gourmet now. She'll be so delighted with this unique food processor she'll have to try it out immediately.

And then all those cakes, puddings and mince pies she makes will taste gorgeous at Christmas. Clever eh!

The Gourmet's the first British made processor and the only one that's been passed by B.E.A.B. and selected for the Design Centre of London.

It has three speeds and a 'pulse' button to give her the control she needs to make everything perfectly and it boasts a big 1.4 pint capacity.

It also comes complete with a unique soft ice-cream maker and standard attachments, including even a spatula. Optional extra attachments are also available.

So come on, be sneaky and buy her a Gourmet now. That way your Christmas will be made!

KENWOOD GOURMET (Model A534)

THORN EMI Domestic Electrical Appliances Limited, New Lane, Harrow, Herts. PO9 2NR



THE TIMES DIARY

Roger, and almost out

If Professor John Ashworth, former Think Tank chief scientist, has retained all his schoolboy cunning, there's no knowing where he might end up. On Wednesday he told the Royal Signals Institution how, as a signaller in the Combined Cadet Force while at school in Devon, he discovered that schools in the Channel Islands took in the afternoon examination papers which mainland schools took in the morning. He accordingly began transmitting the contents via the signals hut to friends in Jersey. Although discovered and demoted - and on the brink of expulsion - he received his first blinding impression of the impact that modern technology could have on a cumbersome bureaucracy; something that was to stand him in good stead during his Think Tank days.

Patrick Cosgrave, a former special adviser to Margaret Thatcher, gave a television interview in his home town, Dublin, last weekend. During it, he insisted that he wished to be considered British since his "comprehension" of being Irish made him a British Tory.

Scrub it

Although Thorn EMI Screen Entertainment has a female top executive, Verity Lambert, other divisions in the company seem to have a rather outmoded view of women. A Thorn EMI Domestic Electrical Appliances advertisement for its Kenwood Gourmet is headed, "If she gets her present now, your Christmas is made." It then suggests that husbands buy their wives a Gourmet but hand it over well before December 25 to ensure a steady supply of cakes, puddings and mince pies. "So come on, be sneaky and buy her a Gourmet now," it advises. Such a good idea, because with all the cooking out of the way, she'll be able to spend the day itself scrubbing the doorknob.

Mr Manjhi Patel has made a wise choice of political party. A caption in the current issue of *The Social Democrat* says that Mr Patel, a member of Harrow SDP, "has no time for political activity."

Picket line-out

Hot on the heels of Julie Welch's fine television play *Those Glory Glory Days*, about a girl obsessed with football, another female reporter is starring in a true-life drama her own. At 23, Joanna Davies is a specialist writer of rugby - the first woman member, in fact, of the Rugby Writers' Club. She is also "mother" of the *Camel* (office branch) at the *Richmond and Twickenham Times* and leader of the 13 National Union of Journalists members who have defied David Dimbleby by striking since October 17. Several of her striking colleagues are old enough to be her father, who is also a rugby fanatic and, of course, a Welshman.

Volume 23 Part 2 of the *London and Middlesex Archaeological Society* list of publications includes a pamphlet, entitled *The Cranley Gardens Hoard*.

Prophets of gloom

The staff of the monthly bulletin *Memo* (Middle East and Mediterranean Outlook) have something that other journalists would give their souls for: the gift of clairvoyance. Under the heading "Next month's pointer", it says: "Watch for increased violence by the Muslim Brotherhood in support of the PLO and against President Mubarak of Egypt. . . . Full story in the next issue."

BARRY FANTONI



'I saw one, but it wasn't nearly as nasty as the Falklands war'

Eye on profits

London Weekend Television is using some emotive language about its financial position. The retiring chairman, John Freeman, referred to "the present bleeding of ITV" and this week's *Mail on Sunday* blamed the Government for the fact that the company's series *Marlowe - Private Eye* has yet to be shown. The article claimed that because of a financial crisis in ITV, profits were down and levy exemption could not be claimed on non-existent profits. Ergo, since the cost of Raymond Chandler's *Marlowe* could not be recouped, the series could not be shown. In fact, LWT had quite a good financial year. More to the point, it expects to have an even better one next year. If it turns out that next year's profits are high enough to merit a levy on the company which will allow it to recover its costs on *Marlowe* - that's when the series will be screened.

PHS

Building up a prison crisis

by Andrew Rutherford

The Home Secretary, Mr Leon Brittan, defended his successful bid for additional prison construction and staff recruitment with two assertions. He maintains that the prison estate has been neglected, saying that no new prisons were built until 1958. He also says that 10,600 new prison places (including 4,000 "gained" by refurbishment) will end overcrowding by the close of the century. Both propositions are highly questionable.

Far from being neglected, the prison system in England and Wales has received considerable capital investment since 1945, when total capacity stood at 14,300. By 1957, although no new prisons had been built, capacity had been increased by 9,000 places through a combination of property acquisitions and extensions to existing institutions. Since that date a further 15,000 places have been added to the system by extensions and new constructions. There are now 121 institutions compared with 78 in 1960.

The increase in prison has been even more spectacular, rising between 1960 and 1982 from 8,250 to 25,700. In fact during this period the number of prison officers rose at twice the rate of the increase in prison population. While the number of civil servants fell by 9 per cent between 1979 and 1982, the number of prison staff rose by

13 per cent and the additional 5,500 staff now to be recruited will account for virtually all additions to the civil service.

The claim that by the end of the decade the capital investment programme will eradicate overcrowding is very doubtful. Home Office projections estimate the 1990 prison population at 50,000 (compared with 44,000 today), although Mr Brittan anticipates a net fall of 2,000 as a consequence of measures he has announced since becoming Home Secretary. But because of the way in which types of prisoner are allocated to particular prisons, equalising capacity and population may not end overcrowding. When such an equivalent last existed, in 1973, there were 12,000 persons sharing cells which had been designed for one person.

More significantly, there is considerable reason to doubt that the prison population will rise at the level forecasted by the Home Office. Between 1970 and 1981 a standstill in the prison population of between 37,000 and 42,000 was achieved. But by late 1981 it was clear that the standstill policy was being abandoned. William Whitelaw told the House of Commons in March 1982: "We are determined to ensure that there will be room

in the prison system for every person whom the judges and magistrates decide should go there and we will continue to do whatever is necessary for that purpose."

The real danger is that Mr Brittan's prison-building programme will send a signal to decision-makers throughout the criminal justice system that additional capacity is available. As a consequence the prison population is likely to be well in excess of 50,000 by the end of the decade and prison overcrowding will still be a major problem. The prison system remains set upon a relentless expansionist course. To break the expansionist mould will require substantial reductions in the apparatus of imprisonment so that prisons come to be regarded, throughout the criminal justice machinery, as a scarce resource.

More than 60 years ago the Home Secretary, Winston Churchill, successfully embarked on this course, and within a decade the prison population had been reduced by 50 per cent. Mr Brittan has chosen to disregard the experience of his illustrious predecessor and his legacy for the next century will be an overcrowded system of monstrous proportions.

The author is senior lecturer in law at Southampton University and his book, *Prisons and the Process of Justice - The Reductionist Challenge*, will be published next year.

Coming: the Carmen cavalcade

"It was a strange and wild beauty, a face which at first was astonishing and which one could never forget. Her eyes especially had an expression at the same time voluptuous and savage, which I have never seen since in any other human. Eye of grey, eye of a wolf, that is a Spanish saying full of perception. If you have no time to go to the zoo to study a wild gaze, then look at your cat the next time he is watching a sparrow."

That is one of the earliest views of Carmen in Prosper Mérimée's short novel of the same name, before Don José himself takes up the story of how he becomes besotted with the gypsy girl in Seville and eventually killed her out of passion and jealousy.

Thirty years after Mérimée published that description, Bizet's opera was heard at one of those operatic premieres which went straight into the history books, a night of disaster at the Opéra, Comique in Paris in 1875 when the audience liked the music little and the (to them) sordid story even less. But *Carmen*, like *The Barber of Seville* and *La Traviata* before it, received swiftly to become a slice of international public property.

Outside opera, *Carmen* has appeared on screen a number of times. The silent cinema saw her as a vamp and it was no surprise to find Theda Bara and Pola Negri among those playing her. Rita Hayworth followed later in sound, also my personal favourite, Vivienne Romance, under Christian-Jacques' direction; so of course did Dorothy Dandridge in Otto Preminger's *Carmen Jones*, with Marilyn Horne at the very start of her career providing part of the sound track. Miss Horne 40 years later is still in powerful voice, which proves that mezzos can have a lengthy career.

On stage, Zizi Jeanmaire turned her into a long-legged temptress for Roland Petit's ballet company and Seville oranges used to roll all over the stage at certain falls.

Over the next few months Britain is likely to see half a dozen more screen *Carmens* of which the first will be Hélène Delavault when Channel 4 transmits Peter Brook's *The Tragedy of Carmen* on December 7. Channel 4 must have fought hard for the rights on *La Tragedie de Carmen*, especially as this will be a world premiere as far as television is concerned. Brook, since the days when he was director of production at Covent Garden, just after the war, has been in the habit of creating legends and few have been more successful than the *Carmen* he fashioned from Bizet's opera.

It opened in Brook's Paris theatre, Les Bouffes du Nord, just over two years ago and each one of its 200 performances was sold out. There were queues at the box office and even bigger ones outside the main doors before they were opened: no seats were reserved and there was a mighty rush to get the best places. The Bouffes is run on strictly



Channel 4's line-up: Helene Delavault with Howard Hensel, Zehava Gal, Eva Savoura



On film: Laura del Sol with Antonio Gades, Julia Migenes-Johnson, Marushka Detmers and Jacques Bouma

egalitarian principles - except for the odd seat set aside when a presidential visit is expected - with a flat price of about £5.

Brook stripped down the opera just under an hour and a half with the help of his adaptor, Jean-Claude Carrière. All the trappings of grand opera, including the chorus, were removed and the composer, Marius Constant, reduced the orchestra to a little over a dozen, placing them at the back rather than the front of a stage turned into a sandy arena. The production was intended to travel and it did: to Hamburg, to Barcelona, to Scandinavia and round France itself, but never to London. There was much talk of the Riverside Studios in Hammersmith and just a little of an obscure cinema in Notting Hill Gate, The Coronet. Alas, it all came to nothing and Brook's stage *Carmen* has instead just opened at the Vivian Beaumont Theatre, which has been dark for some time, in New York's Lincoln Center.

At the Bouffes, Brook operated with three alternating casts in the principal roles and no one so far, try as they might, has priced out of him which of the three he prefers. True to the tenets of the theatre he has refused to divide his players into A, B and C teams. And so it is for television. There are three Brook *Carmen* films, all exquisitely photographed by Ingmar Bergman's favourite cinematographer, Sven Nykvist, and all follow the line of the Bouffes du Nord staging with only minimal opening up for film. The only difference is that the theatre itself has disappeared.

On December 7, Channel 4 will see the most voluptuous of the three *Carmens*, Mlle Delavault, Zehava Gal, musically the most accomplished of the trio, will be screened next year (Peter Brook has

insisted that any station buying *Carmen* screens all three versions). The third, Eva Savoura, provides the subtlest interpretation, turning her José (Laurence Dale, who also sings opposite Zehava Gal) almost into a schoolboy initiated into sex. Howard Hensel, by contrast, on December 7 is a rough, unshaven scoundrel who knows the sexual score backwards. And there is part of Brook's intention: to show the different faces of the woman and the work.

Mérimée comes above Bizet's librettists, Meilhac and Halévy, on the credit titles for Brook's film. And so he should. He was very much to the fore in the best and most famous of recent Bizet stagings, that by Piero Fagginio at the Edinburgh Festival in 1977, where in the opera as in the novel the story was told principally through the eyes of Don José, who happened to be sung by Plácido Domingo if you caught the right night.

In Jean Luc Godard's *Prénom: Carmen*, which has a screening at the London Film Festival tonight before a commercial release at the Chelsea Cinema early next year, Mérimée is out of sight. So too is Bizet, apart from the Habanera hummed at a couple of joke moments - a typical Godard in-joke. Beethoven provides the music and Godard provides himself, as a film director trying to finance his next movie, plus Marushka Detmers as Carmen X, a member of a terrorist gang. Miss Detmers bares her breasts a lot, and very attractive they are, but she does not get very near Mérimée.

Carlos Saura takes rather close order in his film *Carmen*: he after all is Spanish. It has had a lengthy and critically approved run in Paris and makes it toward the bottom of *Variety*'s current weekly list of top-

grossing films in America; it opens at the Curzon Cinema in the West End on February 10 next year. There cinematographers will find themselves back in the world of ballet with a choreographer (Antonio Gades) searching for a ballerina (Laura del Sol) to play the leading role in his next creation, which is of course *Carmen*.

A great deal of the film takes place in rehearsal rooms at the barre, with the choreographer gradually taking on the mantle of José with much the same results as in old Seville. Guitars strum loudly. But there is Bizet on the sound track, taken from a very venerable recording.

Purists though may prefer to wait for Bizet plain, or possibly not so plain as Francesco Rosi is the director, for a *Carmen* due to emerge next spring with Plácido Domingo as José and Ruggero Raimondi as Escamillo. Work is still going on in the recording studios - Maael is the conductor so there is likely to be an opera set as well as a movie - but a great deal of attention is likely to be paid to the girl in the title role, Julia Migenes-Johnson. Miss Migenes, before she added the Johnson to her name, had a considerable success at the Vienna Volksoper. She is small, immensely energetic, full of temperament and on screen could have just that "strange and wild beauty" Mérimée described.

He saw it first when he spent some time travelling in Spain around 1830 after the excesses of Paris had proved too much for him. He stopped at a country inn for a bowl of gazpacho. The girl who served it, Mérimée recorded in his diaries, was called Carmencita. Mérimée was much struck, and that is how the legend began.

John Higgins

Wanted: a stately home tax loophole

To judge from Lord Charteris's recent visit to the 24th annual report by the National Memorial Heritage Fund yesterday, we might assume that all was well with our heritage. With an investment income of £1.5m (from its £24m capital), topped up by government grants of £3m, the Fund intervened successfully, and wholly within its budget, to purchase for the nation two Fountains (one for the Walker Art Gallery, one for the National); a Stubbs, a clock by Thomas Tompion for £250,000; more of Exmoor to add to the protected park; Kinder Scout and Studley Royal (including Fountains Hall) for the National Trust; the Earl Haig papers for the National Library of Scotland; and further estate land around Castle Coole, Northern Ireland.

It also refaced Castle Coole, and purchased with endowment Charles Rennie Mackintosh's masterpiece, The Hill House, Helensburgh, for the National Trust for Scotland. That, at least, was the picture until April 1983: but those feeling reasonably happy might not have spotted that there was only one stately home among the list and that Hever Castle was saved from being a charge on the Fund only by outside intervention. Outside intervention, however, is never certain; and events since April indicate that the Fund's record of success may well be its last without significantly more government aid. For already, halfway through its new financial year, current commitments would not only exhaust the Fund's entire

current annual budget but threaten its very existence by the need to eat into capital reserves.

The Fund's terms of reference are to purchase for the nation, as part of the national memorial for the war dead, items of heritage which are of the highest quality; which are at grave risk; and which require significant financial assistance. The simple fact is that the happy figures for 1982/3 do not reflect the urgency for 1983/4 - even though the Government's contribution to the Fund this year was augmented by a mad March present of £5m.

Two stately homes arrived, as it were, simultaneously: Calke Abbey in Leicestershire, requiring some £7m for purchase and endowment; the other, Belton Hall, Lincolnshire, requiring some £8m.

The Fund offered to help Belton, which was immediately at risk, and had to let Calke Abbey go. It also offered the National Trust for Scotland £2m for Fyvie Castle in Aberdeenshire, one of Scotland's ten outstanding monuments, but the outcome is still uncertain.

Looking ahead, the picture darkens. As SAVE keeps reminding us, great stately homes are rotting and crumbling from Cornwall to Caithness. Many of the fashionable post-war uses for such buildings have been eliminated by rising petrol costs or changes in social patterns: health spas, hotels, teacher training colleges, minor prep schools, TB clinics and even trade union headquarters are no longer easy options.

Indeed, the Fund, firmly believes that "the most effective and economical guardians of our National Heritage are its private owners. Our objective is to retain the characteristics of a house as a setting for the outstanding works of art it contains. . . . Wherever possible, we seek to preserve an outstanding house and its contents intact". Not, one might add, that health spas, teacher training colleges and minor prep schools managed to do that.

Of immediate concern are yet more outstanding monuments: Weston Park, Staffs - a house of 1671 in an area not over-endowed with fine stately homes open to the public; Thirlestane Castle, Lauder - a wonderful fifteenth and sixteenth century confection transformed by Sir William Bruce (he of Holyrood) and David Bryce, in the seventeenth and nineteenth centuries; and Robert Adam's masterpiece, Kedleston Hall, Derbyshire. Looking beyond, it is not difficult to identify houses where future concern may be appropriate: Ighiteam Moat, Sevenoaks; The House of Gray, by William Adam, Dundee; and Mavisbank, Lothian, also by Adam. Two other Scots examples recently passed by with no possible action: Guthrie Castle, Angus, and the magnificently restored Earls Hall, near St Andrews. Many of these great houses no longer have sufficient estate income to pay for their maintenance. Many are impossibly large and inconvenient. Yet, collectively, their survival is central to our heritage.

Even once financial help has been

offered and accepted, problems remain. Sometimes there is an impetus to part with one of the family's collection - such as, say, a major collection of manuscripts or drawings. The fiscal situation in Britain, unlike that in the US, militates against people being able to open their houses or donate their treasures, or subscribe to charity as a way of reducing tax. Furthermore, many of these great houses are remote from public transport. If they are to be preserved for the nation, that part of the nation which is unemployed (which might be just such places) is just that part which could probably not afford to reach or enter them.

The National Memorial Heritage Fund, in the long run, would prefer to see its job rendered unnecessary by tax changes, which would prevent houses of note having to be offered on the open market; and which would provide assured maintenance in return for a genuinely popular access. At the moment, a small number of stately homes are suffering from over-use and exposure: adding more to the pool would spread the load, widen the opportunity, and prevent the type of fire-rescue operation currently required to prevent the complete break-up of a great artistic estate. Perhaps it is significant that the Fund's director, Dr Brian Lang, is a doctor of anthropology whose former skills lay in recording and protecting endangered species.

Charles McKean

David Watt

Kansas corn, but don't be deterred

Having seen *The Day After* (American Broadcasting's nuclear catastrophe television film) I am sure the IBA is right to reject Mrs Whitehouse's advice and to allow it to be screened. It is not a very good film, being, like most American disaster movies, full of cardboard stereotypes for characters and crude fake effects for kicks. Strangely enough, although it is not exactly the squeamish, it pulls its punches, for in describing the effects on a small Kansas town of half a dozen 100 kiloton nuclear explosions no more than 40 miles distant, it greatly underestimates the probable devastation and horror.

It is necessary for dramatic purposes, for instance, that our hero, Jason Roberts, caught in his car in flat, open country, 30 miles from the nearest blast, should be able to stumble through the flash and fire storms for 10 miles to the local hospital in order to tend to the sick for a heroic week before succumbing to radiation sickness, but it is not exactly plausible.

None the less it is not a bad film either. It will give people a jolt (which they need); it explains, in more or less truthful terms, some of what is involved; and it provides images that will return to the mind whenever one is tempted to discuss nuclear war in too detached or cerebral a fashion. For all these reasons it ought to be shown.

But what about its political significance - for I cannot see how the IBA has been able in good conscience to pronounce that "it doesn't make any political statements"? To be sure, its authors have coded their message and made no explicit appeal. But their intent is manifest in all sorts of little points and asides, particularly the very conscious portrayal of obfuscation and fatuity, culminating in a splendidly irrelevant presidential broadcast delivered in the best Reagan homespun style on H-Day plus about six or seven.

The object of the film, clearly, is to make an emotional appeal which comes over loud and clear: "Ordinary people are more important than governments; governments cannot be justified in putting their countrymen to this kind of nuclear risk for remote principles such as freedom and justice. Deterrence is useless, because this is what happens when deterrence fails".

As a reason for banning the film, this is no better than any of the other objections. For one thing the case against deterrence - which is basically a pacifist's one - is entitled to a hearing. For another it is as foolish to ask for a movie about what happens when deterrence succeeds as it would be for one about a skyscraper that is really fire proof, a bridge that is well designed, or an airliner that does not have a bomb in its hold and a pilot with a long, secret history of mental instability. Without these fatal flaws, there is no story.

Why, then, was I irritated and worried by the film - and in a way that its authors manifestly did not intend? No doubt I shall be told that it was because the truth is uncomfortable, especially if you don't want to believe it. But the case as told in the film is ones I do already believe in: it is only the inference being surreptitiously hoisted on to me that I object to. I felt

rather the same many years ago when I was taken, during the course of a Polish government tour, to Auschwitz. That is, as many people will know, a horrifying experience and could have been a deeply moving one had not my hosts made it very clear that the primary object of showing me these mementos was not to arouse profound thoughts about the human capacity for evil, far less sympathy for the Jews. The main point at that time was that I should reach the spontaneous conclusion that the Germans were bad and dangerous and therefore the occupation by Poland of the former German territories on their western frontier was fully justified.

In the nuclear case the terrible factual premise is equally valid, and the proposed conclusion, if not as self-serving as the Polish one, is at least as precariously founded on feeling and not reason. And in the present, pre-fervid climate where emotion is increasingly in the ascendant on these matters, it seems likely to have a disproportionate impact.

This is a serious prospect for it entails the further growth of two simplistic sentiments that are already making progress. One is the notion that nuclear weapons should and could be disintegrated or at least safely reduced to near zero (the sudden discovery by the British Council of Churches that the possession of nuclear weapons is an offence against God appears to be part of this phenomenon); the other is the idea, basically neutralist, that Europe can purchase nuclear safety by opting out of the East-West conflict. This last view is not a response that the authors of *The Day After* can have intended, but I can imagine many people watching the film here next month and saying "This is what comes of having nuclear weapons on your soil - we want no part of it".

The latest opinion polls suggest that the majority still realizes that nuclear weapons are here to stay and may even be helpful in promoting peace and deterring war; that Europe could not escape the consequences of an East-West conflict even if it went into the Soviet camp. But it does no harm to draw out the real conclusions from *The Day After*.

Nuclear weapons have horrendous and indiscriminate effects on ordinary people. These apply equally in Kiev, in Coventry and in Kansas City. If one side can inflict them, it is vital that he should know he will suffer them too, because if he knows that, he will not inflict them or threaten to. The most vital goals in this situation are parity and openness - or to put it another way, deterrence and confidence. We long ago achieved sufficient parity for our purposes and we could preserve it by negotiation at a much lower level if we really tried.

We have been extremely remiss on this last point, and we have been doubly remiss about openness; the lack of confidence at present is the most worrying thing about East-West relations. There is almost no dialogue, and therefore no certainty, much distrust and an unnecessary amount of danger - not much danger, but enough to make the making and showing of a film like *The Day After* an understandable frailty.

Philip Howard

Your host, the hack, sounding off

The lodger (non-rent paying) is in town all week on a charm course. You could say that in his case it is too late, since Polyphemus, a savage whose heart had little knowledge of just laws or ordinances, had more charm, even when old and smelly, than the lodger. You could say that week is not long enough. You could say that it would be more profitable to send him on a course of home economics or teach him about the just laws and ordinances of paying rent. But what is peculiarly vexing about the charm course is that we are paying for it.

The lodger is an airline pilot. He is among 12,000 of the company's employees who are "in touch with the public" who are being put through a course called "Putting People First", devised for the company by an American firm of consultants. This glassiness takes place in the Concord Centre in Southall, and participants are encouraged to wear badges inscribed "I Fly the World's Favourite Airline". The message appears to be the unexceptionable one, "Be nice to the passengers, because they pay your wages." But the message is promoted by a combination of simple-minded managerial psychology and imperious exhortations about their private lives that would come more appropriately from some demagogue of the moral minority.

For example in the book of the course there is a chapter on strokes. I am all for pilots not having strokes, particularly when they are flying me. But those are not the sort of strokes the ineffable American management consultants have in mind. They define strokes as any kind of attention you can get from or give to another person. "Strokes are essential for a relaxed and happy life. In the Western world where food is plentiful, strokes are the greatest human need . . ." Contd p. 94.

And on page 94 they give the lodger an exercise entitled "Do you get the strokes you deserve?", in which they invite him to award himself marks on such statements as "I am good in bed." Well, I can answer that one. What the lodger is in bed is downright untidy. But what in heaven has that got to do with his

ability as a pilot? What I want from my pilots is that they should take me off and put me down safely, concentrating on the job in hand rather than the *Times* crossword between the points. I do not wish to know about their body language, their eye contact, or whether they are kind to children. I am indignant that the lodger has spent all week, no doubt at vast expense, and partly at my expense on such fatuous and otiose games.

He says that all airlines now offer the same service at the same price, so that the only hope of attracting more customers is by sucking up to them. The best way of attracting tired businessmen, who form the majority of his passengers, he says (the lodger is a male chauvinist as well as a non-rent payer), is by sacking all the male stewards, and employing only beautiful girls as cabin staff. Topless, I ask? And how about tired businesswomen?

I can see that flying is no fun. The other day a fat cat businessman in first class carried on smoking his Havana through breakfast. Other passengers complained. Eventually the lodger, in gold braid like a bogus admiral, was summoned from the driving seat. Exercising eye contact and service-giver's authority, the lodger asked, deferentially: "Would you mind putting out your cigar during breakfast, sir?" The fat cat inhaled, and blew a smoke-ring in his face.

The lodger could have thumped him: a captain is in sole command. He could have taken the cigar and stubbed it out in the airline scrambled egg. What he did was take the line of least resistance, and retreat to his cabin as if he had just remembered something important that had to be done.

People behave in an odd way in aeroplanes, because they are scared. It is the leucis instinct, an atavistic feeling that humans are not meant to fly. I know that if I am ever travelling by plane and hear the announcement, "This is your captain, the lodger, speaking", I shall make my excuse and leave. But, with this charm school nonsense, I reckon it is going to be more agreeable to go by coach anyway.



P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

KICKING THE FATAL HABIT

It is with a gleam of success in its eyes that the Royal College of Physicians returns this week to its battle against smoking for the fourth time. Campaigners against the fatal habit complain with reason that it is hard to counter the tobacco industry's lavish expenditure on promotion when their resources are so much smaller. This week's report confesses gloomily that "Evaluation of individual anti-smoking campaigns shows that none has ever produced more than a transient effect". The graph dips for a few months and then recovers. But repeated campaigns and persistent pressure have at last had a cumulative effect against the colourful allurements of the hoardings; in the past few years the number of cigarettes smoked in Britain and the number of people smoking them have both begun to move decisively downwards.

The harm that they do to health can manifest itself ten or twenty years later, so the full effects of the change in habit have yet to be felt. But a clear downward trend in the incidence of lung cancer among men of all ages (the situation is more complex among women) already enables the campaigners to point to results that are far more extensive and impressive than ever before. The change in public attitudes is obvious everywhere: smoking in public is in the vicinity of non-smokers is increasingly seen as bad manners even where it is not prohibited outright.

But many thousands still die prematurely every year because of diseases associated with smoking. It shortens the lives of far more people than crime, suicide, drinking, even road accidents (for every young man who will die on the roads, forty will die early because they

smoke). A scourge so destructive requires society to make strenuous efforts to combat it. But if the scourge appears to be in decline in any case, the authorities may feel that the pressure is off them to assist the process.

Smoking may still be by far the most important avoidable source of disease in Britain, and disease associated with it may still be higher here than in most developed countries. But the smoker's vote is not insignificant, while the revenue he provides to the Treasury is very significant indeed. It would be hard indeed to find a source of revenue to replace it. However, it is probably less these calculations than a straightforward reluctance to interfere in market processes which has caused this Government to be too supine about discouraging smoking. Its informal treaty of 1982 with the industry effectively gave up the attempt to bring in any further controls on promotion before December 1985.

As a simple issue of personal freedom it would be quite wrong as well as dangerously imprudent to try to ban cigarette sales outright. The individual should be given latitude for dangerous and even foolish activities that endanger only himself (much has been made recently of "passive smoking", but on present evidence that remains more a matter of offence than serious medical risk). But society is fully justified in restraining advertising, where temptations are still so clever, pervasive and subtle, and in ensuring that those who are offended by the practice need not suffer in public places.

Newspapers are in an ambiguous position in calling for extra controls on cigarette advertising, because we carry them ourselves,

along with many other advertisements for products and political positions that we do not endorse. There is a case to be made on freedom of speech grounds for not suppressing publicity that is within the law. It is not inconsistent to call at the same time for the law to be made stronger. The example of Norway shows that a complete ban can have a dramatic effect on consumption, but at the very least there is a need for more limits to the scale of advertising, and for greater prominence to be given to the warning messages that it should carry. The guidelines intended to rule out publicity that identifies cigarette smoking with wealth, sexual success and the healthy life have only provoked the advertisers to greater feats of ingenious inference.

The question of sponsorship is more difficult. It enables the industry to present itself indirectly in association with the healthy pursuits that it has agreed not to exploit in its advertising, and to gain space on television where it is technically banned. The sponsorship is of real benefit to the sporting and cultural worlds, and would be sorely missed. The answer may be to allow sponsorship under a manufacturer's name, but not sponsorship that directly promotes a brand-name. Public policy towards cigarette promotion of all kinds should be one of a steady and progressive diminution in publicity for a product which, unlike alcohol, fast cars and other products which can be abused, causes in normal use both addiction and sharply increased vulnerability to killing disease. The diminution in reliance on the revenue from advertising and sales will have to come too.

ARMS FOR LATIN AMERICA

The Prime Minister recently warned the United States that a resumption of arms sales to Argentina, before a formal cessation of hostilities, would be strongly resented in Britain. The Americans have now riposted by expressing concern about possible British arms sales to Chile, on the grounds that such sales, by increasing tensions in the Beagle Channel, may hinder Dr Alfonsín's new government in its task of reforming and reducing the Argentine armed forces, and that Chile has a repressive regime.

Arms sales invite posturing, and these exchanges are unconvincing. The Prime Minister must be aware, first, that Dr Alfonsín is not in the buying vein; furthermore, that if he were, he has many alternative suppliers apart from the Americans, some of them in Europe; last, that, as Mrs Kirkpatrick has stated, it is unlikely that Washington, which has voted for a resumption of Anglo-Argentine negotiations, will long maintain an ineffective embargo against an elected government in Buenos Aires.

Mr Reagan must be aware that jets and destroyers have little to

do with repression, that this hasty concern for General Pinochet's record is implausible, and that Britain has for long supplied arms to Chile. This fact is well known in Argentina, and it is doubtful whether the sale of 12 Jaguars, some Sea Eagle missiles and HMS Antrim would deflect the Argentine government from its chosen diplomatic courses.

Sovereign nations buy arms. Contrary to popular belief, most Latin American governments are proportionately low spenders on defence. If Chile chooses to buy this equipment, despite the straits in which her economy finds itself, that is by and large a Chilean affair. Dr Alfonsín may reduce Argentina's military budget, but he is not going to reduce it to nothing. The current North Atlantic fuss about arms for the South should be reduced to its proper proportions: the Anglo-Saxons should abandon their unrealistic poses of tutelage.

That done, there is still cause for comment. Given the British government's attitude to Latin American indebtedness, it is contradictory that this country should encourage the purchase

of arms by Chile, the country with the highest per capita debt in the region, while refusing export credit guarantees to Brazil. The contradiction will be noted abroad, even if it escaped notice here.

It is also true that in the wake of the Falklands War it is easy to represent conventional arms sales as symbolic gestures, and that it is naive to suppose that this does not apply when Britain is the seller.

The Prime Minister is better known in Latin America than any British leader since Churchill. The episode that made her so famous - and she has her admirers as well as her detractors there - also exposed the inadequacies of successive British governments in their Latin American policies. The Prime Minister will not be hurried, and should not be, into ill-tempered gestures, but British policy should not be allowed to slip back into the sort of unimaginative righteous torpor that this current trans-Atlantic argument suggests. What is worrying about it is not so much its content, but the suspicion that no one is thinking hard enough about anything else.

THE GREENING OF GREENHAM

The disclosure by the Ministry of Defence that its operational nuclear bases are really under cover nature reserves takes a bit of digesting. It is particularly disorienting for the Greens. If the Stone Curlew nests within 25 metres of the main runway at Lakenheath, and if Greenham Common, inside the wire, gives shelter to the threatened Purple Emperor butterfly, the doctrine of deterrence acquires a new dimension. Nuclear weapons that serve to check the global expansion of chemical-based agriculture may have something to be said for them after all.

But has the Ministry thought through its policy? Has this cell of conservationists, whose existence is now revealed at the heart of the nation's defence effort been positively vetted? The question has to be asked because of the serious consequences of the operation's falling into the wrong hands.

As every student of the subject knows the law is more expeditious in the investigation of offences against birds than offences against the person. A police constable has power under warrant to search premises for poached birds' eggs but not for a murder weapon. The Police and Criminal Evidence Bill is in

process of removing that anomaly. But the ingrained bias in the criminal law, which is a cultural bias, will remain.

Mr Heseltine may have a policy of shooting people who come too close to nuclear weapons, but the extent of his licence to do so is uncertain. No such uncertainty surrounds the offences and penalties laid down in the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981.

It has been announced that the tunnels in which the cruise missiles of Greenham Common will be parked pending deployment are to be planted by the Ministry's conservation corps with an assortment of heathers. The ostensible purpose is to provide alternative accommodation for the Purple Emperor whose accustomed scrub has been cleared in order to open a field of fire towards the peace bivouacs on the perimeter. But can one be satisfied with that explanation? May not the purpose of the heather, a plant alien to the Hampshire Downs, be to entice into the vicinity of the missiles animals which are under the protection of the law?

If the Natterjack Toad were to colonize the cradle of the missile launcher, or the Dormouse - it is known to have infiltrated the base already - or if Horseshoe

Bats were to suspend themselves from the tail plane what would become of the state of readiness? It is not only an offence to kill or injure those animals. Any person "who disturbs any such animal while it is occupying a structure or place which it uses for shelter or protection" shall be guilty of an offence. We all use cranes for protection. It might be argued that a missile is not a structure, but the argument would be contested and might have to be taken to the House of Lords. Would there be time for that?

The act provides certain limited exceptions, though the exigencies of a nuclear strike are not one of them. In any case they are not available for Bats unless the person has "notified the Nature Conservancy Council of the proposed action or operation and allowed them a reasonable time to advise him as to whether it should be carried out and, if so, the method to be used". No one should underestimate the speed with which the Nature Conservancy Council would respond on notification of the intention to fire a nuclear weapon. All the same it is questionable whether the procedures laid down take adequate account of the delivery time of the SS20, which is ten to eleven minutes.

problems in this region, I feel confident that, given proper site investigation, an orthodox tunnel could be constructed.

Whether a tunnel would be better than a submerged tube is a question of economics, but a tunnel should not be ruled out because of previous inadequacies of site investigation in relation to design. Yours faithfully, GEOFFREY A. KELLAWAY, 14 Cranedown, Lewes, Sussex. November 19.

Delusions about rate-capping

From the Chairman of Buckinghamshire County Council
Sir, The needs and resources of every local authority are different and if Mr Geoffrey Fincher (November 17) accepts the proposition, as it seems he does, that a few people in the Department of Environment can decide exactly what each authority should spend, he deludes himself. The present situation on block grants shows they cannot.

Finance officers are already spending endless expensive hours on the counterproductive and wasteful process of unravelling at a local level the tangle created for us in Whitehall, which the electorate has no hope of understanding.

Should a general rate-capping scheme ever be applied the bureaucratic cost and confusion which would result is something no Conservative could contemplate with equanimity.

The Government now has a large majority, including members who have a wide knowledge of modern local government. It should and can afford the time to take a long hard look, as well as advice from those experienced in the field of local politics, to see how to achieve local accountability through the ballot box.

While the selective rate-limitation scheme may have immediate attractions, the short-sighted, it is a further step towards authoritarian power and no substitute for electoral accountability on local matters.

Our Secretary of State may call for reductions in expenditure, but others may require the reverse and I shall be surprised if Parliament does not have the wisdom to apply rigorous statutory controls over the power of selection.

Yours faithfully,
ROGER PARKER-JERVIS,
Buckinghamshire County Council,
County Hall,
Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire.

Plea for disabled

From Mr J. Beckingham and others
Sir, We, all of whom have intimate knowledge of the prejudice and discrimination suffered by disabled people, implore Her Majesty's Government to block the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons (Amendment) Bill when it returns to the House of Commons for a second reading on Friday of this week.

Yours faithfully,
J. BECKINGHAM (Chairman, Disabled Persons Association),
G. M. DAVEY (Secretary, Artists' Club),
R. D. CLAY (Director, The National Association for Deafblind and Rubella Handicapped),
M. P. GILBERTSON (Executive Director, Association for Spina, Brain and Hydrocephalus),
D. G. GUTTERIDGE (Director, Disabilities Study Unit),
L. J. LINDHART (The Disability Alliance),
MARGARET LORKE (Director, Greater London Association for Disabled People),
DAVID MANN (President, National Federation of the Blind of the United Kingdom),
C. R. MOORE (Executive Director, John Greenway Association for the Disabled),
WILLIAM RIX (Secretary-General, Royal Society for the Blind),
JOYCE SMITH (Chairman, The Spinal Society),
ROGER SYDNHAM (Director, The Royal National Association for the Deaf),
A. VERNER (General Secretary, The British Deaf Association),
JOHN WALFORD (General Secretary, The Multiple Sclerosis Society),
c/o Greater London Association for Disabled People,
1 Thorpe Close, W10, November 22.

Historic buildings

From Mr Andrew Selkirk
Sir, Many seem to be writing to you to applaud the GLC's Historic Buildings Division and its highly expensive new archaeological service for outer London. Can I give a view from the grass roots by looking at the two boroughs of Camden and Barnet?

In Labour-controlled Camden the council has been most lavish in its support for professional archaeologists, but there is no archaeological society. In Tory-controlled Barnet, on the other hand, there are no professional archaeologists, but there is an exceptionally strong and active archaeological society, which carries out all the necessary rescue archaeology at no expense to the council. Indeed, they recently over-excavated a major excavation on Hampstead Heath, a few yards over the border in Camden.

Which is preferable: a strong and active local society and no professionals, or a large number of professionals and no local society? In the long run, the only way we can preserve our heritage is by getting grassroots support. It is all too easy to believe that the past is something that can be "left to the professionals". It can't; it belongs to all of us, and unless we have a strong network of local societies, and of people on the spot who care about the past, then the grassroots support will vanish.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW SELKIRK,
9 Nassington Road, NW3.

The Mosley papers

From Mr A. S. Newsom
Sir, Perusal of the documents released by the Public Record Office reveals the weakness of the justification for the 100-year closure when I first raised the issue in February, that they included information which could cause distress to or endanger named individuals or their immediate descendants and material which could not be released on security grounds.

None of the records opened go beyond 1937. There is therefore nothing on the immediate past to or the early years of the Second World War. The transcript of the investigation of Sir Oswald Mosley before the Birkett Tribunal in 1940 and other documents relating to his

Soviet response to US missiles

From Mr Spartak Beglov

Sir, Your report (November 23) the green light given by the West German Bundestag to the deployment of Pershing-2 and cruise missiles. Serious international repercussions will be triggered off by the deployment of United States first-strike missiles in Europe.

First, general strategic stability will be weakened because the now existing military balance will be upset in the most sensitive area of East-West relations. The new generation of weapons are capable of provoking nuclear war in such a way that either side may find itself in a situation where it will have neither an opportunity, nor time to retain control over the developments.

Second, a new round of the arms race will be inevitable. The Soviet Union and its Warsaw treaty allies will have to take measures in response to the deployment of weapons which give the United States a capability to launch a strategic nuclear strike against the Soviet Union from the nearest positions in Western Europe.

At present the Soviet Union does not have this opportunity in respect of the United States. Depriving the Pentagon of the temptation to bring these weapons into action means giving an adequate answer, both on the operational-tactical plane and in respect of United States territory.

The Americans must inevitably feel the difference between the situation which existed before the deployment of their missiles in Western Europe and the post-deployment situation in which they will be faced with a new level of threat commensurate with the threat they inflict on the USSR.

Third, a blow will be dealt at the Geneva talks. The Soviet delegation has declared on the cessation of the current round of the talks without the fixation of any date for their resumption. The situation at the talks on strategic nuclear weapons is being complicated as well.

Fourth, the very attitude of the West to some agreements with the East, which now form the basis of

detente, will be questioned even more. West Germany is committed under the Moscow and other eastern treaties to contribute in every way to the assertion of the principle of non-use of force, and of renunciation of the threat of force in relations with eastern neighbours.

Soviet leaders have stressed that they will continue to work for these invariable goals of strengthening peace and curbing the arms race in a much more difficult situation. The Soviet Union will continue cooperating with all forces that are coming out for the ultimate triumph of reason. For the sake of this it will be necessary to review the still existing foundations of East-West cooperation and all factors in East-West relations, which were engendered by detente and which still maintain its viability.

In other words, it will be necessary to find all possible means of compensating for the slow-down of detente in the military sphere by the consolidation of those forces that stand for the deepening of cooperation in the economic, cultural and political aspects of European detente.

A conference on confidence-building measures, security and disarmament in Europe which opens in Stockholm next January offers a good opportunity for demonstrating the alternative to the explosive situation created by the process of overstraining Western Europe with US nuclear weapons.

It is with the express purpose of preventing the worst from happening that the Soviet Union and the Warsaw treaty organisation see their duty to Europe in depriving, by their counter-measures, the owners of Pershing-2s and cruise missiles of any temptation to risk a nuclear catastrophe.

Yours sincerely,
SPARTAK BEGLOV,
Chief Political Observer,
Novosti Press Agency,
4 Zubovski Boulevard,
Moscow,
November 24.

Divisions between Church and state

From the Bishop of Jarrow

Sir, I am not sure what your leading article, "The way of the Cross" (November 21), is saying, but it appears to me to be once again making what I consider a false dichotomy between the individual and the corporate, the public and the private. They are, given various caveats, opposite sides of the same coin; the incarnation.

This, too, applies to areas such as the Establishment, which both needs to be redeemed, but is also the instrument of redemption.

This is part, I believe, of what Archbishop Jaha Halpood was saying at York last Friday. Obviously there are matters of division between the faith and the world, between Church and state, but your leading article seems to me to be muddling the dividing lines.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL JARROW,
Melkridge House,
Gilesgate, Durham.

From the Archbishop of Oxford

Sir, Christians of all kinds must be glad that you are ready to devote a long leading article to the issues raised by the Archbishop of York's enthronement sermon. I suspect, however, that I am not alone in questioning your claim that what you describe there is "the way of the Cross".

Your insistence upon the individual and his struggles, eloquent though it is, fails to do justice to the Christian understanding of God as Trinity. This doctrine points to the conviction that the most important of all truths about God is that he is "relatedness". Human beings are therefore most perfectly conforming to the image of God not when they are alone but when they are in relationship.

Cyprus troubles

From Professor A. A. M. Bryer

Sir, Cyprus has troubles enough without Roger Scruton in *The Times* (November 22). Anyone can get their dates wrong, but to wish upon that unfortunate island not only a patriarchate, but an hereditary

Communication from God to a person is normally through another person, so the knowledge of God is mediated through the life of the community. It is therefore a contradiction to treat such a gift as a private intellectual or spiritual possession.

"The way of the Cross" is therefore no private pilgrimage: it is the road by which we learn the costliness of relationships, the paradox that only when we respond to God by giving ourselves away do we truly find them.

This is the way God showed himself to us in Christ. He did it for all to see on a hill outside Jerusalem. May we not therefore call the resulting faith "public"? Yours faithfully,
FRANK WESTON,
Archdeacon's Lodgings,
Christ Church,
Oxford.

From Rear-Admiral J. E. Dyer-Smith

Sir, As Dr Slack (November 23) writes, your leader of November 21 was extraordinary - in its boldness as well as in its context.

It may, as your critics argue, have had little to do with theology, but it had a heartening relevance to the experience of so many of us of disparate persuasions, that when the chips are down - on the battlefield, in acute moral crisis or at a time of savage bereavement - it is the faith constructed from the ashes of inner conflict - the way of the Cross - that enables us to hold on by the fingertips and to hope for better times.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN E. DYER-SMITH,
15 Saint Cross Back Street,
Winchester, Hampshire.

patriarchate which is somehow also democratically elective, is the last straw.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY BRYER,
33 Croft Road,
Birmingham,
November 22.

Settle-Carlisle line

From Mr Andrew Connell

Sir, As your correspondent, Alan Whitehouse, points out (feature, November 17), British Rail has been driven into a corner in order to sustain the case for the strategic decision to close the Settle-Carlisle line.

The truth is that this line serves an important social function both in meeting local needs and providing travellers from all over Britain and overseas with a magnificent scenic route, inaccessible in places by road, and totally outside the range of any other form of public transport.

Its revenue-earning potential is formidable despite poor timing and half-hearted marketing services

along the Settle-Carlisle line were packed throughout the summer and trains had to be increased from four to six or seven-coach size.

Moreover, the line is an indispensable part of Britain's rail network. On the morning that the closure notice was published trains were passing through Appleby station both north and southbound every few minutes. Yet again there had been a power failure on the electrified line north of Preston, causing large-scale diversions along the Settle-Carlisle line. Q.E.D. I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
ANDREW CONNELL,
36 Barrowmoor Road,
Appleby,
Cumbria,
November 17.

It may well be that the full record will show that the desire within the British establishment to reach an accommodation with Nazism and use it to crush Communism was the main reason for the development of the German military threat to terrifying proportions, and not the pacifism and failure to rearm which are so often blamed.

The documents which are still to be released could shed light on these vital issues and it would be scandalous for them to remain closed on the pretext that their release would cause distress or threaten national security. Yours faithfully,
STAN WENNS,
c/o Lays,
18 Park Hill,
Harlow,
Essex.

Better bets for Calke Abbey?

From Mr Nicholas Baker, MP for Dorset North (Conservative)

Sir, Lord Gibson, Chairman of the National Trust, makes in his letter about Calke Abbey (November 21) a number of assumptions which ought to be questioned.

First, the quality of building and contents of Calke Abbey do not, for all the interest of a house where the interior has remained unchanged for many years, come into the same category as, say, Belton House.

Second, there is an assumption that public money granted to the National Heritage Memorial Fund should be an automatic source of funds for the National Trust. Lord Charteris has often stated that this fund is not a milk cow but a safety net. The trustees in their wisdom have worked wonders for the heritage, often in partnership with others.

The National Trust already appears to have been the largest, single recipient of NHMF money. In addition to £2m for Belton House, the sum was £2m for Sudley, Royal (Fountains Abbey), £1.5m for Canons Ashby and at least two other grants of more than £250,000.

No doubt the trustees will continue to give generous support to the trust, but Lord Gibson should not assume that the fund can be tapped whenever the trust seeks to make an expensive acquisition.

Third, I find disturbing Lord Gibson's implied suggestion that the National Trust is the main or usual candidate for houses such as Calke Abbey. The National Trust must be selective about its acquisitions and to contemplate even one major rescue operation a year would be to change the nature of the National Trust and to strain the resources of the NHMF.

I suggest we have not heard enough about other ways of securing the future of Calke Abbey and the provision of other financial or fiscal assistance to this end.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS BAKER,
House of Commons,
November 23.

Video violence

From Mr David Holbrook

Sir, Mr Butterworth (November 16) is confusing reality and culture. Of course one learns from reality and too have been exposed as a young man to corpses and mutilation in a war - and I hope I learnt from that horrible experience that we must work hard to control human hate.

Pornography, however, belongs to the use of symbolism for the purposes of entertainment and this belongs to a very complex process by which we try to relate to reality, through the imagination and the "inner life".

The excitement to which Professor Mills (November 16) refers, which he believes releases certain chemicals in the bloodstream, may in pornography be generated by the feeling that the viewer is taking from others something they do not wish to give. That is, it is a form of theft of privacy, a violation of the secret body life of human beings, what some call visual rape.

In plainer terms, since (as the Williams committee noted) there is no individual, personal, element, such as we know in love, what pornography teaches is just - the impulse to express contempt for others and the excitement of triumphing over them. This vicious instruction is disguised by the apparent "erotic" content; but the behaviour sometimes of people in the pornography industry seems to make it clear that pornography is eroticised hate.

Culture teaches, as Professor Raymond Williams emphasised in his important book, *Communications*. Moreover, culture always has a certain authority, so the very toleration of sadistic and insulting pornography also teaches the population at large that lust is acceptable.

To teach through a powerful visual culture that lust is an acceptable mode of existence is not reconcilable with the democratic way of life as we know it. Discovering, as the fallacies of the "permissive" position begin to be exposed, not least by imitations among the less stable members of a society.

Yours &c,
DAVID HOLBROOK,
Denmore Lodge,
Brunswick Gardens,
Cambridge,
November 16.

From Dr Malcolm Weller

Sir, Professor Mills's suggestion (November 16) that violent pornography can be additive, because high arousal is associated with the release of endogenous opioids (endorphins and enkephalins) is equally true of rugby - a fact that seems to be appreciated by public schools.

Yours faithfully,
MALCOLM WELLER,
30 Arkwright Road,
Hampstead, N.W.3,
November 17.

Maternal pride

From Lord Allen of Abbeydale

Sir, I notice an increasing tendency (from which you yourself, Sir, have not been immune) to refer to the Westminster Parliament as the Mother of Parliaments.

It is perhaps worth recalling that what John Bright said was that "England is the Mother of Parliaments". Yours faithfully,
ALLEN OF ABBEYDALE,
House of Lords.

The Severn barrier

From Dr Geoffrey A. Kellaway

Sir, Mr Richard Cottrell (November 19) is correct in saying that considerable difficulty has been experienced in tunnelling beneath the Severn estuary. However the Severn tunnel was constructed between 1873 and 1886 when tunnelling methods and equipment were much less effective than now. Moreover, the men who built the Severn tunnel had very little prior knowledge of the geological structure and hydrology of the ground in

which the operations were to be carried out. Judged by modern standards their site investigations would be regarded as totally inadequate.

There may have been less excuse for failure to ascertain the facts about the route of the CEBG tunnel in the light of the problems which are known locally to be associated with decalcified and fissured carboniferous limestone. Nevertheless this tunnel, like the Severn tunnel, was completed and is in use.

Speaking as a geologist with long experience of engineering geology

هكذا من الأصل



Titian, Tintoretto and Veronese are the star attractions of *The Genius of Venice 1500-1600*, an exhibition which opens today at the Royal Academy of Arts in London. This Special Report looks at the cultural richness of the Veneto - the region from which nearly all the artists in the exhibition come - ranging from the Roman arena and theatre at Verona in the west to contemporary painting and glass-making in Venice

by John Julius Norwich

The *cinquecento*, the century covered by the exhibition that opens today, shows us the Venetian genius in the fullness of its flower. The Renaissance had come to the lagoon. Even in the 1440s, when Bartolomeo Bon completed his gloriously flamboyant entrance to the Doge's Palace, the Porta della Carta, Gothic was still the rule: there was not a single classically-inspired building in the city until Antonio Gambello's triumphal gateway to the Arsenal, erected in 1460. Before that time, Venetian art, whether in the form of painting, sculpture or architecture, must have seemed distinctly quaint to sophisticated young Florentines brought up on Masaccio and Ghiberti, Brunelleschi and Donatello.

There were several reasons for this, and the first lay in the character of the Venetians themselves. Always does rather than thinks, they mistrusted abstract theories; their response to beauty was more sensual than intellectual. Architecturally, moreover, they had refined the Gothic style to such a pitch of virtuosity that they were understandably reluctant to abandon it.

It is arguable, too, that they were strongly affected during the middle decades of the century by the new wave of Byzantine influences brought by refugees fleeing from the Turkish advance.

In its primitive years, the Republic had always drawn its cultural inspiration from Byzantium rather than Rome, and the Venetians - led by the celebrated Cardinal Bessarion, the former Orthodox Archbishop of Nicaea who had accompanied the Byzantine Emperor to the Council of Florence and had then remained in Italy to become a Prince of the Roman Church - may well have felt more instinctive sympathy with the ideas of recent immigrants than with the humanist teachings of Florence.

But when the Renaissance

came at last to Venice, the city's artists quickly made up for lost time. By the end of the century, thanks to the families of the Bellini and the Vivarini, to Carlo Crivelli and Andrea Mantegna, Venice had become a serious rival to Florence: Cima and Carpaccio, Giorgione and Titian were already at work, as were architects such as the Lombardi, Gambello, Giorgio Spavento and Mauro Coducci.

Even at this early stage, one cannot help noticing how many of these artists were not, strictly speaking, Venetians. Giambattista Cima came from Conegliano in the Alpine foothills, Titian from Pieve di Cadore in the high Dolomites; Mantegna was born near Padua, Giorgione in Castelfranco, Coducci and Palma Vecchio were from Bergamo. The Lombardi were indeed Lombards; equally self-evidently, among the younger generation, Jacopo Bassano was from Bassano del Grappa, Paolo Veronese from Verona. The most influential of all Renaissance architects, Andrea Palladio, was a Paduan who spent his working life in Vicenza. Native-born Venetians, among the artists of the first league, were the Bellini, Crivelli, Carpaccio, Tintoretto and Lorenzo Lotto; but very few others.

This, however, should occasion no surprise. As early as the fourteenth century, Venice had found that she could no longer remain aloof from developments on the mainland. By 1405, she had become mistress of a considerable area of north-eastern Italy, including the cities of Padua, Vicenza and Verona; half a century later her empire extended from the Po to the Alps and from the Adige - only a few miles from Milan - almost to Trieste.

It was for long fashionable to date her decline from the moment that she turned her attention away from Byzantium and the east, the source of her immense commercial prosperity, towards the *terrafirma*

and the ceaseless turbulence of Italian politics - thereby putting her trust no longer in the sea, the element where she had always been supreme, but rather in the land, to which she had always felt herself a stranger.

In fact, she had little choice: the persistent machinations of her enemies and the need to protect her European markets made her policy the only possible one. It proved, moreover, surprisingly successful: most of her mainland dominion remained Venetian territory until the coming of Napoleon.

It was in the east, and not in the west, that the storm-clouds

were gathering. The fall of Constantinople to the 21-year-old Sultan Mehmet II was only a beginning; on land and sea, the Turks were continuing their westward advance. In 1470 they captured Negropont (Euboea), the Republic's chief colony in the eastern Mediterranean; Leros followed a year or two later, together with nearly all Venetian possessions on the Greek and Albanian mainland; more alarming still, bands of mounted Turkish irregulars had overrun the territory of Friuli immediately north-east of the lagoon, so close that the flames from the burning villages could

be seen from the top of the Campanile di St Mark. In 1480 it was the turn of the Ionian Islands. Venice managed to retain Corfu, but at the end of the century she sustained yet another grievous loss - Modone and Corone, her twin colonies in the south-western Peloponnese.

Thus, as the *cinquecento* began, the Most Serene Republic found itself on the defensive; nor was its morale improved by the recent news that Vasco da Gama had returned safely to Lisbon, having completed the return journey to India by way of the Cape of Good Hope. No longer, it seemed, would Venice represent the principal European terminal for the silk and spice routes to the East. No longer would oriental merchants have to put their trust in slow, plodding camel caravans; in future they would take ship at Lisbon and disembark only at their final destination.

Overnight, Venice had become a backwater - or so at least it was thought at the time. Fortunately the Cape route was found to have problems of its own, and the berths along the Riva were to remain full for another century and more; but Venice's self-confidence had been dangerously shaken.

It is a commonplace of history that nations attain their cultural peak only after their political one is past. We may find it hard to believe that this stunning exhibition portrays a civilization in decline; but the truth is that, of its golden century, the Republic spent the first three decades fighting for its life against most - and occasionally all - of the princes of Europe, and the last seven helplessly watching the remorseless Turkish expansion, during which the ephemeral victory of Lepanto in 1571 was as nothing

compared with the permanent loss of Cyprus the previous year. By 1600 there can have been no doubt in anyone's mind that the great days were over; and although the *Serenissima* was to endure for another two centuries - experiencing, during the first, a brief revival of military glory in the Peloponnese and, during the second, one last flaring of her artistic genius with the great *venetisti* and the Tiepolos, father and son - those days were never to return. Only the beauty remained.

Lord Norwich is author of *A History of Venice* (Penguin).

Treasures of the Veneto

A SPECIAL REPORT

Carlo Piro



The marriage of city and sea. The view down the Grand Canal towards Santa Maria della Salute, designed by Longhena and built in 1632 to commemorate cessation of the plague.

Enchantment with every step

What is a museum city? The word museum still conjures up, alas, the picture of what most of them were like 50 years ago, but very few - at least in the western world - are like today: vast, echoing spaces, grey and lifeless, filled with carved stones, stuffed animals and dusty glass cases. In this sense, surely, no city is less of a museum than Venice. Melancholy the day be, particularly on those misty autumnal afternoons when the lagoon is as smooth as oil, the colours fade from the stone and the marble, and the all-pervading

damp chills you to the marrow; but gloomy, never.

If, on the other hand, we are talking about a city in which almost every important building is a work of art, in which it is impossible to walk a hundred yards without some new enchantment to the eye, then Venice is the museum city *par excellence* - with the additional advantage, shared by none of her rivals, that there are no roads to be crossed, no cars or lorries to be avoided, no traffic signs to disfigure or obscure the view.

Venice qualifies for the title,

moreover, in one other unique respect. Thanks entirely to those two and a half miles of shallow water which separate her from the mainland - and shallows, be it remembered, provide a far better protection than deeps for any would-be invader - Venice has survived through the centuries as the only Italian city never once to have suffered pillage or destruction at the hands of her enemies.

Even when the army of Napoleon finally sailed, unopposed, across the lagoon and brought the 1,000-year-old

Republic reluctantly to its end, shipping off to Paris countless pictures, sculptures and works of art, the fabric of the city itself was left essentially untouched.

And because that same stretch of water has similarly delivered Venice from the tyranny of the motor car, untouched it remains. This truth is brought home strikingly enough whenever we look at a Guardi or a Canaletto, but we can go back more than twice as far as that - to the end of the fifteenth century, when Gentile Bellini and Vittore Carpaccio were active. The points of difference today are as nothing to the points of similarity. No other city constitutes so astonishing a historical document in its own right, or presents so unchanged a face to the world.

Venice, however, does not live in her past - a subject in which most modern Venetians appear sublimely uninterested. They are far more preoccupied with her future. Is she to survive, and if so how? Nobody wants to see this magical city, once the mightiest power in the Mediterranean, slowly sink into the mud of the lagoon as the waters rise around it and its inhabitants gradually desert it for the *terrafirma*, until at last it is populated only by the tourists and those who cater for them. Venice would then be a museum city indeed, and a waterlogged one at that.

Surely, if she is to continue, it must be as a living, economically viable community, able to hold her own with her mainland neighbours. Inevitably, this entails certain compromises: one cannot, for example, follow the advice of the purists and ban all motorboats from the city; a first-rate public transport system is essential when there is virtually no other kind, nor is it entirely practical to deliver, say, a deep freeze by gondola.

Venice's own system is second unto none, her *vaporetti* punctual to the minute; there are other essentials, however, where her record is less immaculate. Good, low-cost housing for the working population is one: no city can maintain its morale indefinitely when a significant proportion of its inhabitants can expect to find their living-rooms knee-deep in water several times a year.

The other, still more important, since on it Venice's existence ultimately depends, is the construction of the long-awaited gates across the three entrances to the lagoon. Once these are in position and the city made finally safe from the ever more frequent *acqua alta*, the most beautiful city in the world will again be able to face the future not just with hope, but with confidence.

JJN

If you'd rather see Venice in Italy than in Piccadilly we'll fly you direct.

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Alitalia

THE GENIUS OF
VENICE
1500-1600

at the Royal Academy of Arts, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1
until 11 March 1984 (closed 24 & 25 December)



The exhibition is sponsored by the Sea Containers Group and Venice Simplon-Orient-Express Ltd

Alitalia and Culture

Alitalia's contribution to the success of London's art exhibition on the great Venetian painters of the 16th and 17th centuries is not an isolated episode.

In 1960, in fact, among the company's first cultural initiatives was the display of paintings, by the foremost Italian contemporary artists, on board its DC-8 planes, thereby creating full-fledged high altitude art exhibitions.

These art shows at an altitude of 30,000 feet carried the message that Alitalia continues to develop to this day in the areas of culture: that technology and art are not antithetical terms, but rather expressions of that same complex reality which constitutes man as a whole.

These exhibits were followed by similar initiatives in Italy and abroad, attracting visitors from every part of the world, and offering them a fuller understanding of our country's civilization and history.

Particularly worth mentioning among these were the Spoleto "Festival of Two Worlds", the Medici Exhibitions in Florence (illustrating the great influence of the Italian Renaissance on the arts and ideas of the rest of 16th century Europe), Milan's Leonardo da Vinci year, and the Venice Film Festival.

In cinema, Alitalia has long been an active presence, and perhaps not entirely by chance. The film and civil aviation industries are in fact linked by a subtle yet strong bond, to the same core of scientific and technological knowledge.

When, on January 1, 1914, a Benoist seaplane inaugurated the first regular passenger plane service in the U.S.A., the Saint Petersburg-Tampa, Florida line, one could still breathe that atmosphere of exaltation of man's heroic intelligence which had permeated the efforts of the first European and American aviation pioneers. Some even managed to foresee the practical contributions which the new means of transport would have brought to the industrial era.

The cinema as well, from the filming of the workers exiting the Lumiere factory—"Sortie d'Usine", 1895, proposed itself as an instrument capable of interpreting the rhythms of the new industrial society.

In an age of profound social change, both the film and the civil aviation industries have been able to adapt technological advance to the needs of their respective strategies, thus enhancing the complexity and importance of their roles in modern society.

This "consonant" relationship doubtless helped Alitalia arrive at the intuition that the cinema, with its immense potential for cultural diffusion, would become the ideal means to arouse public interest in and a favourable attitude toward air transport.

Alitalia's first colour documentary dates back to 1953, only seven years after the founding of the company. The film told the story of a boy that in order to be with his father, was travelling to Brazil, on a Alitalia DC-8B flying the Lisbon/Salt Island route. (It was in that same year, 1953, that the first Concorde 340's and DC-8B's came to be part of the company's fleet).

From that year onward, Alitalia's Film Section has been active in the development of a long series of documentaries and advertising films geared either to the promotion of the more significant aspects of the company's activities, of Italian or foreign tourist sites or to events of particular historical relevance related to the company's name.

Some of these productions have also received international prizes and awards from various festivals and industrial film reviews.

An important application of the company's technology was the endoscopic filming of the bronze equestrian statue of the Emperor Marcus Aurelius, the celebrated ancient Roman monument which is the centre piece of the square conceived by Michelangelo on the Capitoline Hill.

This examination by film technique enabled the experts of the National Institute for Restoration to locate the damages which the metal had suffered, to permit repairs invisible to the naked eye, and to get an image of the interior of the horse and bust for inspection of the weldings.

It will be seen that Alitalia's cultural initiatives are not limited to occasional spectacular events, but represent a broad policy aimed at achieving results concerning the company's image as well as its commercial activity.

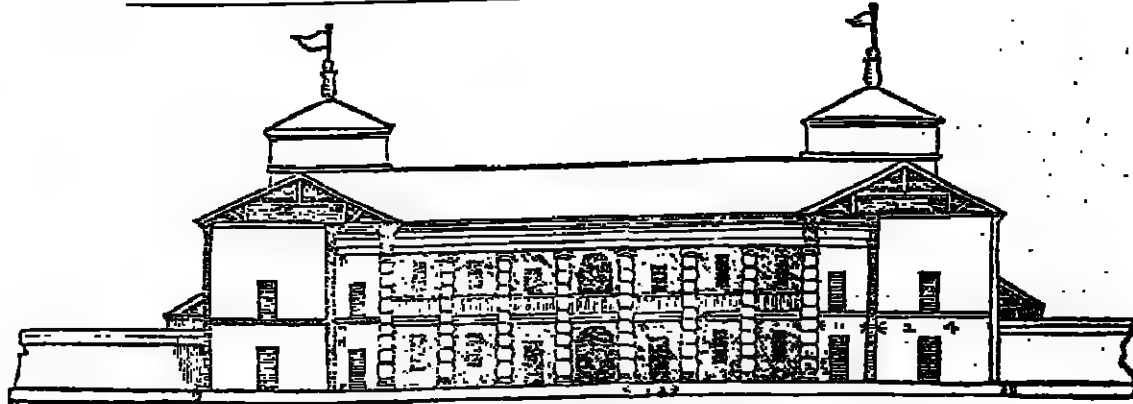
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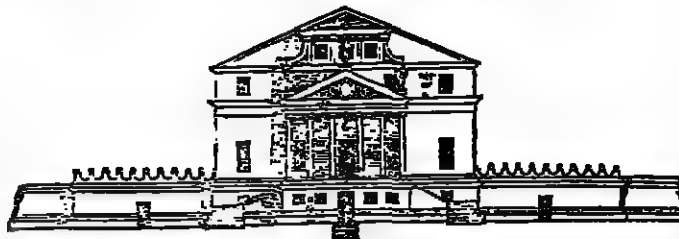
VENETO

As the Venetian Republic expanded westwards, its noblemen invested in the *terraferma* and became involved in agriculture. They and the land-owning gentry of the Veneto towns were to provide patrons for one of the most gifted and influential architects of all time



Villa Sarego: woodcut from Palladio's *I Quattro Libri dell'Architettura*, Venice, 1570

Palladio: a heritage of style



Villa Foscari, called "La Malcontenta", from *I Quattro Libri*

Born in Padua in 1508, Andrea Palladio was lucky to be young enough to be unaffected by the warfare which struck the Veneto in the early years of the cinquecento. In 1509, when he was six months old, the combined forces of the League of Cambrai defeated the Venetians at the Battle of Agnadello and overran most of the Veneto. Only a series of courageous military efforts enabled the Republic to regain its political viability.

Palladio's first works date from the 1530s, when the stability had been restored on the Venetian mainland. By the time of his death in 1580, he had designed two dozen villas. Most of these were catalogued in the second book of his famous treatise, the *Quattro Libri dell'Architettura* published in Venice in 1570. Not all were built, and several remained unfinished; but the surviving villas stand as impressive monuments to his own genius and to his illustrious patrons.

Palladio was certainly an innovator. However, his designs were also firmly rooted in local architectural traditions. Fifteenth-century villas in the Veneto had ordinarily been fortified, symbolically at least, by towers and roof-top crenellations. In more rural sites, the whole villa, together with its gardens and outbuildings, were protected by a fortified enclosure. The principal legacy of villas such as these to Palladio was the characteristically Venetian convention of the symmetrical, three-part facade.

After the Cambrai Wars, three of Palladio's immediate predecessors began to show how classical architectural language could be more systematically and correctly applied to traditional villa types. The designs of Falconetto's Villa La Vescovi, Sansovino's Villa Garzanti, and Sansovino's Villa La Soranza, reveal the impact of these three architects' intensive studies in the ruins of ancient Rome.

Civilisation had to be defended

The adoption of Roman forms in the Veneto was not only a question of architectural fashion; it also served to remind Venetians of their legendary ancestry as refugees from barbarian invasions at the fall of the Roman Empire. The fact that modern Rome had been horrifically sacked by imperial troops in 1527 pointed to an ever-present "barbarian" threat. Civilization had to be defended at all cost, and the revival of classical architecture became one of the most effective vehicles for its expression.

Like the three forerunners just mentioned, Palladio studied assiduously in the ruins of ancient Rome. Indeed, he made no fewer than five visits between 1541 and 1554. However, before the excavations of Pompeii and Herculaneum, few remains of classical domestic buildings were known. Literary sources such as Vitruvius and Pliny provided the only detailed evidence for the villas of the ancients. Palladio's great feat of imagination was to combine his knowledge of the ruins of ancient temples and civic buildings with written information relating to antique villas, and to adapt this synthesis to the practical needs of the Veneto landowner.

In the pages of the *Quattro Libri* Palladio displayed his villas as an impressively unified corpus of works, a series of ingenious variations upon a single theme. Each plan is symmetrically arranged, both inside and out, with a loggia and central hall flanked by large, medium-sized and small rooms on each side. Villas with two main living storeys, generally those sited in or near villages or towns, have gracious staircases, one on each side, in prominent positions. In single-storey villas the stairs are tucked away in inconspicuous corners, since they give access only to the grain-lofts above and to the kitchens and cellars below.

Most of the villas were intended as working farms, with long wings on each side of the owner's residence, containing stables, wine-cellar, shelters for carts and ploughs, and accommodation for the farm manager. Dovecotes often marked the ends of the side wings, as in the Villa Emo and the Villa Barbaro, to add interest to the long, low profile, as well as to supply birds for the owner's table.

pediment above, is once again quite individual.

Towards the end of his career, Palladio became increasingly involved with theories of harmonic proportion. In a series of late works he managed to invent designs in which almost every dimension could be incorporated into a series of musical ratios. One example is the design for the Villa Sarego at Santa Sofia, for a Venetian family active in avant-garde musical circles.

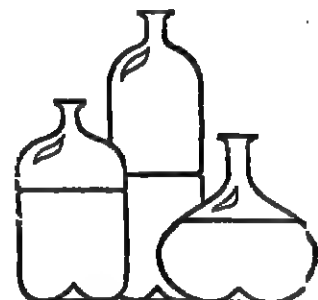
It is a measure of Palladio's capacity for innovation that it was not until his reputation had long been established in the countryside and in his adopted home town of Vicenza that the conservative Venetian ruling class dared to employ him in their own city.

Deborah Heward

Dr Howard lectures in architectural history in the Department of Architecture at Edinburgh University and is the author of two books on Venetian architecture.

VENINI

The Genius of Venice in the art of Glass making



Venini, since its foundation in 1921, is the recognised world master for its unique range of 'objets d'art', acclaimed by experts and collectors. A range of selected pieces have been produced to be on sale at the Royal Academy of Arts during the exhibition of The Genius of Venice.

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The Genius of Venice Exhibition

ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS
25 November 1983 - 11 March 1984

A HOLIDAY IN LIDO DI JESOLO - IN THE WAKE OF THE "GENIUS OF VENICE"

Lido di Jesolo, on the sunny Adriatic, needs no introduction. Every year, thousands of holidaymakers come to the sandy beaches of this modern, well-equipped resort. But let's take another look at Lido di Jesolo, as a starting point for a voyage of discovery into history, in the wake of the "Genius of Venice", to the places that contribute to its grandeur.

VENICE: MORE THAN ITS TRADITIONAL IMAGE

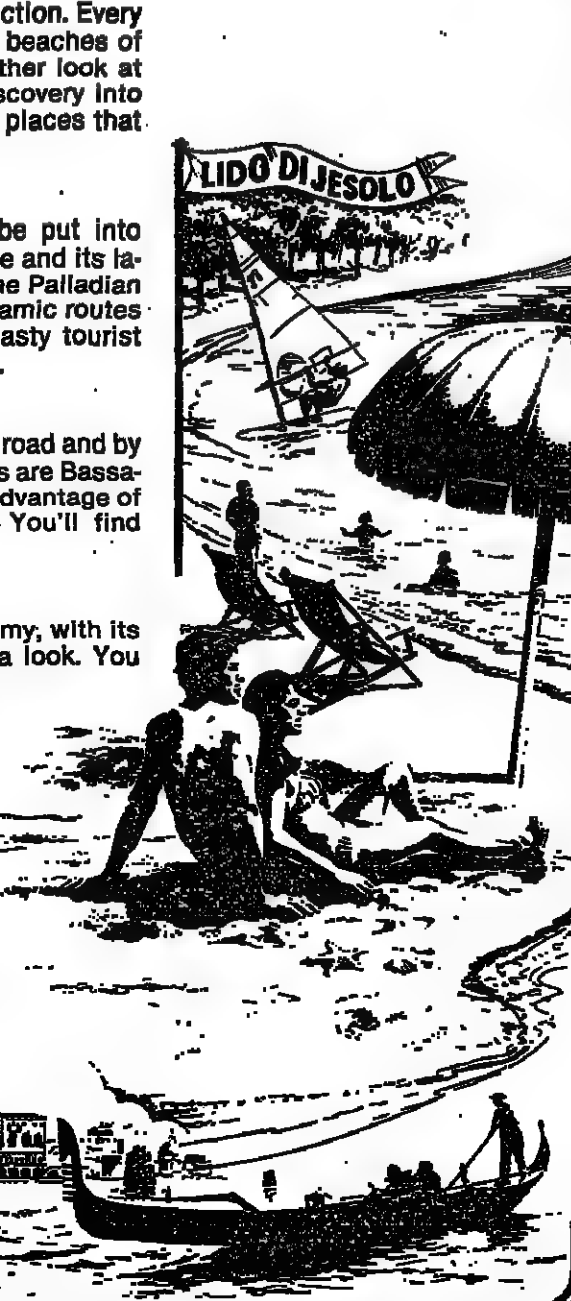
There's something about Venice that simply can't be put into words. And that's a quality that reaches beyond Venice and its lagoon to the provinces of the mainland (the Veneto). The Palladian Villas, the rivers, the characteristic villages, the panoramic routes through the vineyards are all too often left off the hasty tourist circuit. You can discover them all from Lido di Jesolo.

LIDO DI JESOLO: GATEWAY TO THE VENETO.

Did you know that Venice is within easy reach, both by road and by ferry? Treviso, Padua, Verona are all on our doorstep, as are Bassano del Grappa, Asolo, Monte Berico, Marostica. Take advantage of Lido di Jesolo's unique position to visit them all. You'll find experience, hospitality, and moderate prices.

LIDO DI JESOLO AT THE ROYAL ACADEMY

Lido di Jesolo, too, will be present at the Royal Academy, with its own photographic exhibition. Come along and take a look. You could win a free summer holiday!



Studio TRAVERSO - Jesolo

Banca Cattolica del Veneto

مكتبة من الأصل



Detail from Nymphs Bathing by Palma il Vecchio (d.1528), one of the paintings in the Royal Academy exhibition. Palma spent most of his short career in Venice

Sinking under tourists

More is sinking into the lagoon than just the buildings of Venice. It seems that the entire 1,000-year-old art tradition of that fabled city is slowly being submerged under the weight of package tourism and a dwindling local population that can no longer sustain the great artistic production that once made it both the envy and joy of the western world.

Succeeding years have left it with a residue of bad contemporary architecture, albeit relegated to back canals, a degenerating international Biennale that either becomes a stage for political manifestations or increasingly poor displays of art, and a programme of local exhibitions that cannot be labelled as anything but provincial.

Even its great traditions in the decorative arts such as stained glass, blown glass and lace-making, have dwindled, with a few notable exceptions, to the level of airport art, addressing itself to the purses of the indiscriminating tourists who swamp Murano and Burano and the area around the Piazza San Marco.

Some people believe Venetian art died the day Napoleon sailed up the Grand Canal and announced the end of the once proud Republic. Others think it was the forced infusion of the Venice Biennale in 1895 which flooded the city with increasingly meretricious avant-gardism that Venetian artists aped in their desperate attempt to keep afloat.

Whatever the reason, the city that once gave birth to some of the greatest glories of western art, and which considered the arts among its most important exports, now houses but five serious commercial galleries (only one of which has any international importance) and only one serious museum of contemporary art - even that the gift of an American, Peggy Guggenheim.

An insignificant handful of local artists tend to congregate quietly along the Dorsò Duro. Older figures who once had some importance, such as

Arturo Martini, a proto-surrealist who created a series of revolutionary manifestations in Venice around 1908-14, are hardly remembered.

There is Armando Pizzinato, born in 1910, a seminal abstractionist who is revered now only by Venetians. The most important internationally is Emilio Vedova (born 1919), whose bold, non-figurative expressionist canvases are still much sought after in the capitals of art, but he is an exception.

Are there others? One sits poring over Bolaffi (the official catalogue of Italian art) looking for the forgotten: Tancredi, who made a sensation in the 1950s and died in 1964; Music, still very much alive but not quite as much in demand as he once was; Santomaso, born in 1907, still working in Venice; and Alberto Biasi, who rose like a comet in the 1960s with his Op Art works. There is also Mario Duro creating works in a style called *grattage* which he invented 20 years ago.

Young artists drifting off to Milan

Of the younger artists there are remarkably few left who have not sensibly drifted off to Milan or Rome, where brisk business in international art trading offers a better chance of discovery by a more receptive buying public and possibilities of a market in the New World. Coinciding with the Royal Academy's Venetian exhibition, the Polytechnic of Central London, with the sponsorship of the travel agency Serenissima, is presenting an exhibition of contemporary Venetian artists at its Regent Street gallery from November 30. The result offers a glance at a brave but touchingly provincial school.

There are Agostino Moccini's charming *faux-naïve* views of Venice, Miro Romagnoli's more readily eye-catching neo-impressionistic splashy views of the Giudecca and the Zattere.

Mario Amaya

Shakespeare country at your feet

Though Venice is probably the most beautiful city in the world, its immediate surroundings are certainly the most hideous. The busy road from Marco Polo airport is lined with supermarkets, petrol stations and advertisement hoardings and, as one approaches Mussolini's Ponte della Libertà, the horrendous spectacle of Mestre and Marghera assaults not only the eyes, but the nose as well. All attempts at controlling the poisonous exhalations from the petro-chemical installations there have been cynically sabotaged. If one decides to make the journey in reverse, in order to regain the *verve* of the city, one must of course be run again.

An excellent justification for doing so is a visit to three conveniently near but stimulatingly contrasted places, Padua, Vicenza and Verona. They all, inevitably, exhibit evidence of strong Venetian influence, having been absorbed into the Republic at the very beginning of the fifteenth century, but they retain their individuality.

Padua is basically a university town, famous for its faculty of law: in *The Merchant of Venice* Portia claims to represent the "learned doctor Bellario" of Padua. The university is the second oldest in Italy, having been founded in 1222 by a group of teachers and students from Bologna University.

Under the Venetians, Padua was the only university permitted in their dominions, and it became famous for Aristotelian studies as well as law. The beautiful two-storey colonnaded courtyard was designed by Andrea Moroni in a classic classical idiom, but the most interesting part of the building is the circular Anatomical Theatre, built of wood in 1544, and the oldest in Europe.

Just around the corner from the university, in Piazza

Cavour, is one of the most attractive neoclassical buildings in Italy, the Caffè Pedrocchi, designed by Giuseppe Jappelli and built in 1831 in a bold Greek Doric style, and still retaining some of its original interior decoration and furniture.

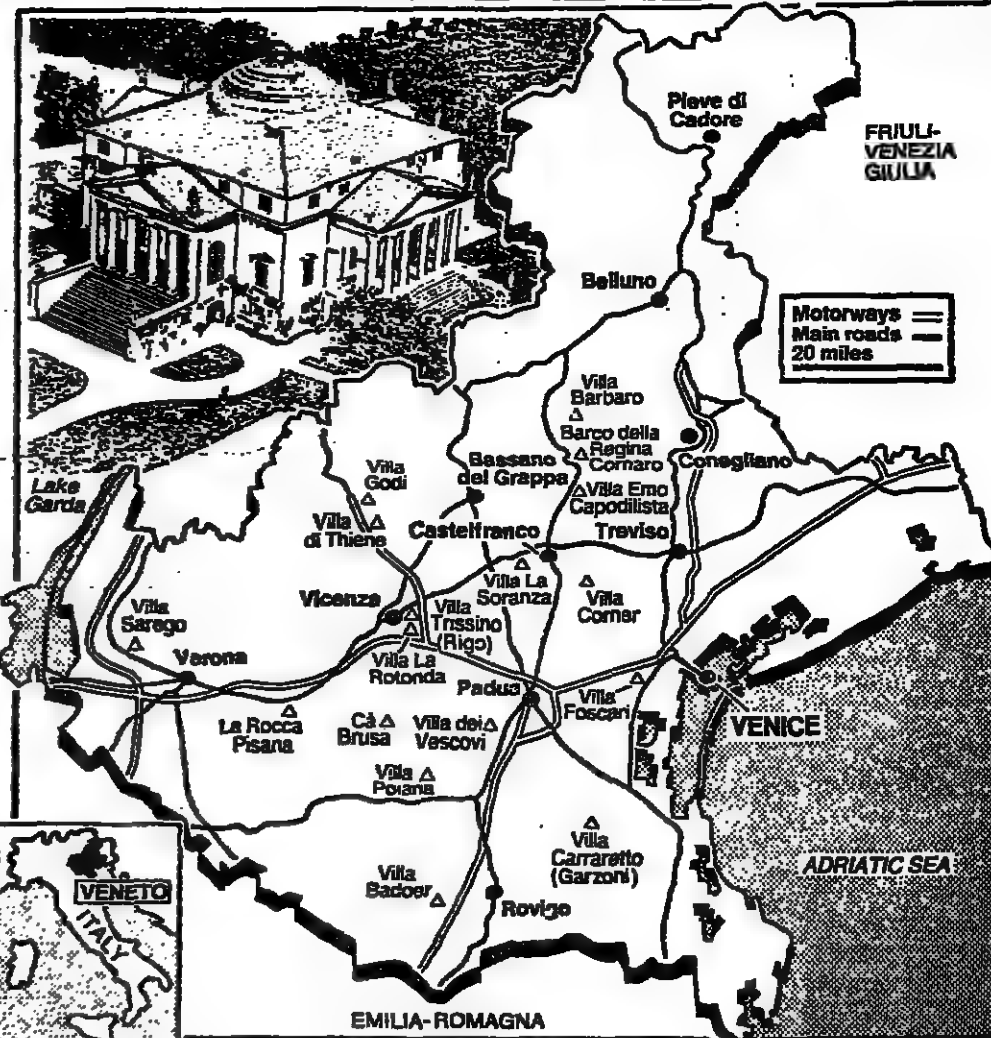
There are several important churches to be visited, notably the Basilica di Sant'Antonio, dedicated to St Anthony and known locally as the *Sancti*, on the square in front of which stands Donatello's powerful equestrian statue of the Condottiere Gattamelata (1453).

Padua's other basilica, dedicated to Santa Giustina, overlooks the Prato della Valle, originally the centre of the Roman city and later used for markets and fairs. Its informality, familiar from an etching by Canaletto, was offensive to the neoclassical ethos and from 1775 it was "improved" and embellished with statues of local worthies.

Any visit, however brief, must include the Cappella degli Scrovegni, built in the ruins of the Roman arena in 1302 and completely frescoed by Giotto. One of the undisputed masterpieces of western art, it signalled its direction for more than 600 years, as revolutionary in its way as Picasso's *Les Femmes d'Alger* of 1907.

Padua is a young, bustling, democratic place, whereas Vicenza, some 20 miles to the east and slightly north, is, in spite of its small size, essentially aristocratic. Its fabric is grand, even forbidding, and much of it is the work of one man, the Vicentine architect Andrea Palladio (1508-80).

Walking around Vicenza is rather like being on a stage set and so one is hardly surprised to find the Teatro Olimpico, based on ancient Roman models. Across Piazza Matteotti,



the Palazzo Chiericati, which houses the Museo Civico, looks strangely familiar: the south facade of the Queen's House, Greenwich, is built to the same design, but with the balance between solid and void reversed.

The heart of the city is the Piazza dei Signori, dominated by the huge Basilica, which Palladio clothed in a magnificent two-storey arcade whose basic unit is equally familiar as the "Venetian window" so popular with English architects during the Georgian period.

If Padua is democratic, Verona is aristocratic, Verona is positively imperial, with its vast Roman arena, its array of

forked Ghibelline battlements and, above all, its commanding situation on the river Adige - Ruskin said that it was "more nobly placed than Edinburgh".

The social spine of the city is the pedestrianized Via Mazzini, which links Piazza Erbe, the Old Roman Forum and now a market place packed with umbrellas-shaded stalls, with Piazza Bra, lined with elegant cafes and restaurants and containing the majestic Arena.

Verona is enormously rich in works of art, an important collection of which is housed in the Museo del Castelvecchio, which was completely redesigned in the early 1960s by Carlo Scarpa in a bare but

dramatic style that has happily not dated.

Paolo Callari, usually called Veronese from his birthplace, is the city's most famous painter and although he spent most of his life in Venice, he did occasionally return to Verona, where he painted at least two major altarpieces, still *in situ*. That in the Church of San Giorgio in Braida (1556), depicting the *Martyrdom of St George*, is appropriately enough one of his grandest as well as his most dramatic works.

Jeffery Daniels

Director, Geoffrey Museum, London

From Lake Garda to the Adriatic in search of Oenological delights

by Bruno Roncarati

Situated in the north east of Italy, the region of Veneto extends from the shore of Lake Garda in the west to that of the Adriatic sea to the east, and from the banks of the river Po in the south to the border with Austria in the north.

Venice is the capital of the region that is divided into seven provinces, the other provincial towns being Belluno, Padova, Rovigo, Treviso, Verona and Vicenza. Few regions are blessed with so much varied natural beauty: the flatness of the agricultural countryside in the south contrasts with the breathtaking peaks of the Dolomites, some exceeding 10,000 feet; the remarkable Lake Garda, the largest in Italy, with the small but picturesque mountain lakes of Misurina and Alleghe; the gentle artistic beauty of the remote Palladian Villas lost in the countryside, with the majesty of the Doge's palace in Venice.

In addition to all this, Veneto is one of the largest wine producing regions of Italy, with an average of some 10 million hectolitres during the last five years; that represents over 13% of the total national production. Of this, about 18% is of DOC status (DOC stands for Denominazione di Origine Controllata, the result of a set of regulations passed in 1963 to control the production of wines in Italy).

Production is concentrated in the south, east of Lake Garda and north of Venice, above and beside Treviso, in the area of Conegliano and Valdobbiadene and the basin of the river Piave.

Hemingway's favourite wine Although I cannot recall precisely how old I was at the time, I certainly remember vividly my first trip to Lake Garda, when I was a small child and my parents took me now and then to this enchanting spot some fifty miles from where we lived.

I remember the shining water of the lake, the surrounding gentle hills, crowned with cypress trees dotting the skyline, the distant mountains covered with snow, the quiet harbours, the old ruins. These early recollections all come to mind many years later whenever I think of Lake Garda, in spite of the very many frequent visits since then.

In fact, not much has changed, at least superficially, although to experience that sense of peace and tranquillity that has been eradicated in my mind for so many years one has to leave the busy roads that surround the lake, the villages bustling at the season with tourists, the crowded picturesque bays and take to the hills.

To the east of the lake are enchanting little villages, emerging from a sea of vineyards. Come Autumn and they all set up their "festa dell'uva", the wine festival that brings out the charm of the old tradition.

This is Valpolicella country, where the famous red wine by the same name, immortalised by Hemingway in "Across the river and into the trees", and undoubtedly one of his favourites, comes from. For an oenological tour of the region, this is certainly a good starting point.

Here we are in the province of Verona, one of the most fascinating cities in Italy, not only on account of its rich features of Roman, Medieval and Renaissance art and the great beauty of its churches, but also because of the extraordinary charm of its surrounding countryside. The majestic Roman arena is well known the world over to opera lovers for the famous open air Summer season and among the churches the most outstanding is that of San Zeno, started in the 5th century and completed in the 12th century.

The Piazza dei Signori is a superb Medieval and Renaissance square, adjacent to the stretch of road dominated by the Arco Scaligero, where members of the House of La Scala resided. Near here is the well known "12 apostles" restaurant of Giorgio Osio, whose gastronomic delights have been acknowledged beyond any doubt by 2 stars in the Michelin Guide.

Verona has the most comprehensive wine show in Italy, called most appropriately Vinitalia. This takes place in the Spring and attracts numerous visitors both from the whole of Italy as well as from abroad. The city offers numerous excellent restaurants and the local cuisine is enhanced by the wines produced on the surrounding hills. Besides "Valpolicella", you can find "Bardolino" another red of similar style though lighter in colour. Some wine companies make a "novello" which is ready early in November and is renowned for its fruitiness. Emilio Pedron, of Lambertini, makes an excellent "novello". "Soave", a slightly bitter white named from a locality east of here, is also enough known not to need any introduction.

For the more demanding there is "Ambrone", a superb full bodied red of some 14/15 degrees made with the same grape varieties as "Valpolicella", but with partially dried grapes, to obtain a fuller, round wine of excellent quality. Among the whites, "Bianco di Custoza", a pleasant straw yellow, slightly aromatic wine, is made near here and is now readily available in the local "botteghe" as well as the more sophisticated restaurants of Verona, as an alternative to "Soave".

Both wines are also available in a "sparkling" version. So are "Recioto della Valpolicella" and "Recioto di Soave", respectively red and white, each made with the same grape varieties as the table wines by the same name.

In this case, the grapes are selected and left to dry on special wooden frames, the same as for "Ambrone", but vinified in a different fashion to obtain sweet sparkling wines.

But the pearl of Veneto's sparkling must be "Prosecco". This wine is made around Conegliano, due north of Treviso, in an area known as Marca Trevigiana, in the province of Treviso.

Not for motorway addicts From Lake Garda, via Verona and the town of Soave, easily identifiable because of its ancient castle perched on a hill, there are various alternative roads to go north-east towards Conegliano. One of the more picturesque is through Verona, Treviso and Bassano del Grappa. It is not by any means the most direct and yet it offers the traveller with time in hand an aspect of rural Italy motorway addicts have long forgotten and the

aroma of grass and a deep ruby colour - an excellent wine to accompany the local gastronomic specialities.

On this score, where better than "Al Sole Da Tiziano", a family run restaurant with authentic local cuisine and one star in the Michelin Guide, located in Bassano del Grappa a few miles up the road. This town, famous for its wooden bridge on the river Brenta is probably better known for its association with "Grappa", the spirit distilled from the residue of grape pressing.

Near Asolo, on the way to Valdobbiadene is the splendid Palladian Villa Volpi with its magnificent gardens, built in the 16th century. Further on in "Bassano" country, the excellent sparkling wine produced in the area between Valdobbiadene and Conegliano. It is made from "prosecco" grapes with an addition of "pignone" of "grigio". This is a delightful wine, fruity and with a lasting froth.

And so to Venice! In the basin of the Piave river from Conegliano, also famous for its oenological school, down to the Adriatic sea, part in the province of Treviso and part in that of Venice, "Piave" wines are made. This Denominazione di Origine applies to two whites, "Tocai" and "Verduzzo" and to two reds, "Merlot" and "Cabernet". Merlot del Piave is a ruby red wine inclined to gamay, with a dry, slightly tannic taste and a delicate bouquet; Cabernet del Piave is a full bodied red with a balanced gamay taste and a deep but pleasant scent.

The latter can be a wine of class with considerable longevity, particularly the "riserva", an additional specification for wines older than 3 years and not less than 12.5 degrees of alcohol.

Near here, in an area between the Livenza and Tagliamento rivers, just north of Venice, Merlot di Pinamaggiore is made. This is a red wine obtained entirely from "mashed" grapes, an excellent accompaniment for roasts and game.

But where better to end our ideal tour of Veneto than in nearby Venice, the capital of the region, the "Serenissima", so impregnated with history and charm, with its fantastic architecture and romantic appeal.

What better to "summarise" our oenological tour than by having dinner in a good restaurant in town. Why not the "Antico Martini" and pick the best regional wines from Emilio Baldi's comprehensive wine list. Here in the elegant and refined surroundings of an eighteenth century coffee house, the most representative wines of Veneto are on offer and can be drunk at their best.

Outside, the hustle and bustle of the Doge's city can be an optional extra, but let it not influence your judgment of the wines. At home, in Britain, they will taste equally good and will bring some sunshine to your table.

Unione Consorzi Vini Veneti D.O.C.

The Union of Venetian Wine Consortia

comprises member-bodies established by

regulations laid down by the Italian

Government and European Commission.

These Consortia are responsible for

controlling and enforcing the D.O.C.

standards.

This union, including its various member

associations, has as one of its functions, the

role of promoting D.O.C. Venetian wines. The

Union of Venetian Wine Consortia would be

pleased to receive any enquiries or requests for

further information concerning D.O.C.

Venetian wines from either of the addresses

below;

U.K. - Italian Trade Centre

37 Sackville St.

London, W1X 2DQ

Tel: 01-734 2412

Italy - Unione Consorzi Vini

Veneti

Corso Porto Nuova 96,

37100 Verona.

Tel: (045) 591077

Tlx: 480096 CAMVR 1



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Italian Genius

Maybe it was in Roman times that Venetian glassmaking started. Or maybe new techniques and direction were learned from the Saracen Workshops, around the 12th century. Unfortunately the history is unclear. But there remains no uncertainty about the genius of the Italians who create it, even to this day.

This genius has been flourishing from generation to generation for hundreds of years. From the earliest 15th century examples surviving to today's products, the craftsmen have used time only to perfect their art.

But perhaps that's a familiar Italian trademark. It's certainly one that Italy's foremost bank shows in following the traditions of the world's first paper money dealers from Venice. Today we at Banca Nazionale del Lavoro not only offer a full range of banking services, but also provide the communications contacts essential in international finance. Through our extensive network of offices we provide your link with the Common Market and the rest of the world.

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Official supporter to 'The Genius of Venice' exhibition.

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Tebbit takes competitive view of Telecom

Mr Norman Tebbit was in characteristically trenchant mood yesterday, unleashing his celebrated acerbic tongue on the Post Office engineers for the short-sightedness of their campaign against the privatization of British Telecom.

Although in many observers' eyes, the union campaign is now beginning to run out of both steam and money, it has undoubtedly had some success in turning public opinion against privatization.

Mr Tebbit was clearly primarily concerned to redress some of the balance in the propaganda battle, and doubtless many of his barbs will have their effect.

More interesting, from the City and industry's point of view, were his more general, philosophical thoughts on privatization. With the Treasury and the big spending departments now engaged on drawing up their privatization programme for the next five years - a programme that could raise £10,000m - will be a key figure in determining not only what goes into the private sector, but the equally important question of how this should be done.

The Trade and Industry Secretary enunciated two principles: first, that competition should be encouraged wherever possible (a principle "so self-evident that I am tempted to claim that it is universally accepted"), and the second that "businesses do best when they are in the private sector" (a view which Mr Tebbit is astonished is not universally accepted).

No profundities there - but the priority between the advancement of competition and the transfer of ownership from public to private sector is precisely what the present internal Government debate over privatization is all about (witness the British Airways/British Caledonian conundrum).

Mr Tebbit hinted strongly that he is lining up behind the view that promoting competition must be the Government's paramount concern.

British Telecom, he declared, is "no shrinking violet that has to be protected from competition". Indeed it is not: it is however the apparent lack of genuine

competition in the Government's plans for the telecommunications industry that has caused so many of its natural supporters to express their misgivings about the British Telecom flotation.

Mr Tebbit must be aware of this, although he claimed yesterday that BT's real competition is with IBM and IIT in the expanding international market. It will be interesting to see if his speech is followed up by a further tightening of the competitive and regulatory framework facing BT after privatization.

Mr Longcroft back in business

On the face of it, Mr James Longcroft's Tricentrol group is marking time with 9 months net profits virtually unchanged at £16.1m pointing to a full year profits of £20m plus. But behind that lies a big cut in the tax bill on Tricentrol's British oil interests - mainly the depleting Thistle field plus a new field in Surrey.

This state of affairs is mainly a result of tax concessions made in the last budget which now make North Sea exploration and companies with tax to offset against it more attractive.

Tricentrol is already involved in exploration in New Zealand (where it is taking a cautious line on drilling results that sent local shares in the Moki offshore field soaring).

Exploration in China is due to start, acreage has been built up in the Gulf of Mexico, the old Canadian interests are still delivering. But the vital eighth round North Sea Licences have still to be appraised.

The company used not to be too clever about protecting its tax position. Mr Longcroft, after being criticized for worrying more about his own tax as an exile, is now back in charge and relying more on the team that he originally built up. If he does not exploit Tricentrol's post-budget possibilities fully, others would not doubt be happy to take over and do it for him.

Trade figures fire a warning shot

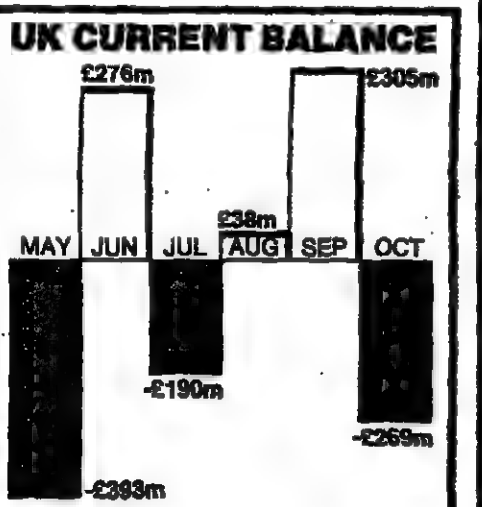
The October trade figures are hardly a cause for panic, but certainly provide more ammunition for those who feel it is time to reappraise the state of the economic cycle in Britain. The reversal to a monthly current deficit of £269m, the worst since May, was caused by a blip of imports right across the range of commodities.

A year ago monthly imports and exports of goods other than oil were balanced at £3.9 billion apiece. By last month, imports had climbed to £5 billion while exports were stuck at a little above £4 billion. Some divergence was to be expected, because Britain's recovery started before those in Europe, North America and elsewhere. But that story is beginning to wear a little thin.

The export boom to the United States is starting to tail off and the EEC balance is not going well.

This all adds to the argument that the consumer boom, even if it does continue, will prove unhealthy because it will lead to overheating of crucial sectors of the economy.

If the Chancellor is to achieve his forecast 3 per cent growth rate next year, he must rely heavily on a switch to investment and/or a crucial contribution from recovering overseas demand for



British exports. And any old exports will not do.

In many industries the excess capacity, the drive to push for chance export markets, simply is not there.

Otherwise, there are bound to be inflationary pressures, whether exerted through trade and the exchange rate or elsewhere. This message had not yet percolated through to policymakers.

Rethink at Burnett after profits halved to £4.9m

By Andrew Cornwell

Burnett & Hallamshire Holdings, the mining and property group which promised further substantial growth in profits this year, yesterday announced halved interim pretax profits of £4.9m.

The slump in profits was below the worst City expectations after a series of meetings between City analysts and Eric Grayson, who succeeded Mr George Helsby as chairman of the group, and James Capel & Co, appointed as brokers, were helping with this review.

The biggest shortfall in profits in the six months to September 30 came from the property division where pretax profits fell from £4.5m to £1.2m. Mr Grayson said that earlier this year the company expected to be able to announce further contribution to growth from the property division.

Instead there was a nil contribution from the property development activities in California, which last year produced a pretax profit of £9.4m, after the sale of the group's interest in the Dart Square development. He said the phasing of the current development programme

would be appointed to strengthen the board.

He said that, after a period when the company had expanded dramatically - principally by acquisition - it was now the right time to examine the future corporate strategy in order to maximize profits from existing resources.

Kleinwort Benson, recently appointed as financial advisers to the group, and James Capel & Co, appointed as brokers, were helping with this review.

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George Helsby: had predicted means profits should build up gradually over the next two to three years.

However, there would be no short term gains from property sales. In contrast he said that construction activities had performed well and recently the group had won a £10m contract in Abu Dhabi and a £3m contract in Northern Ireland.

At the same time, pretax profits from the mining division fell from £5.4m to £4.8m at the halfway stage after depressed market conditions. The oil division increased its pretax

profits from £208,000 to £231,000.

Group turnover during the six months fell from £107m to £100m.

The dramatic slide in the Burnett share price began after Mr Grayson briefed City stockbroking firms shortly after his appointment as chairman, following the surprise resignation through ill health of Mr George Helsby, his predecessor.

Before the meetings, analysts were expecting another record year of profits from Burnett to follow the previous 15 successive years of increased profits.

Profits forecasts for the year were downgraded from £38m to between £15m and £18m. Subsequently the company's bankers and brokers were replaced.

Burnett has been further burdened by problems at Rand Corporation in South Africa, which contributed to associate company losses of £1.5m at the interim stage, against losses of £418,000 last year. Rand has been hit by falling demand for its coal products and Burnett is waiting to complete a restructuring of the Rand operations

UK groups face £35m losses in IBH crisis

By Andrew Cornwell

Powell Duffryn Half-year to 30.9.83 Pretax profit £26.8m (25.1m) Scaled earnings 13.7p (10.8p) Turnover £27.3m (£26.2m) Net interim dividend 5p (4.7p) Share price 250p up 5p Dividend payable 6.1.84

British companies stand to lose at least £35m from the tottering IBH, the West German construction equipment group, which is struggling for survival.

Yesterday Powell Duffryn, the British industrial holding company which holds a 13.2 per cent stake in IBH, said that it was preparing to write off its £14m investment at the end of the financial year to March 31.

This came after the announcement by Herr Horst-Dieter Esch, the founder and chief executive of IBH, that he would be resigning after the collapse of talks aimed at saving large parts of the IBH group.

Babcock International, which holds a further 10 per cent of the IBH equity, has previously made it known that it has £21m at risk at IBH.

Herr Esch said he believed that a bankruptcy petition for IBH could still be avoided, but Herr Wolfgang Peterit, the receiver for IBH, said he could not rule out the possibility of bankruptcy.

Herr Peterit is currently considering proposals from three groups of investors which could save the group which is the third largest construction equipment company in the world.

Announcing interim results for the six months to September 30, Powell Duffryn said that it would be quite sometime before the IBH situation is clarified. However, the company said that it was likely that a provision against the investment might become necessary in the annual accounts at March 30 1984.

In addition Powell Duffryn's Hamworthy Hydraulics subsidiary, where it has a 50 per cent stake, stands to lose about £2m of business a year if IBH does collapse.

But Powell Duffryn stressed that the collapse of IBH would not materially affect group liquidity or borrowing.

Interim pretax profits reached £6.8m, against £5.1m at the same stage last year. Turnover increased from £26.5m to £27.3m.

Trading profits from the shipping operation were down from £1.9m to £1.7m, engineering profits down from £975,000 to £943,000, fuel distribution rose from £1.4m to £1.8m and construction services increased from £2.3m to £3.1m.

SE invites views on rule changes

By Wayne Linnett and Jeremy Warner

Sir Nicholas Goodison, chairman of the Stock Exchange Council, wrote to the 250-odd member companies yesterday, detailing the establishment of two new coordinating committees. These committees will be responsible for the future planning of restructuring stock market trading.

One committee, led by Mr Charles Eglinton, deputy chairman of the council and a partner at jobbers Alroyd & Smithers, will cover the area of constitution, membership, rights, obligations and all future implications, particularly for the compensation fund.

The other committee, led by Mr Patrick Milford-Slade, another deputy chairman who is a partner at brokers Cazenove, will oversee the implications for dealing and supporting technology.

Although no time limit has been set on the decisions of the committees, Sir Nicholas calls on the 4,300 members and market users to make known their views as soon as they can.

Sir Nicholas reaffirmed his intention to only after the rules if there was a widespread call to do so. Once again he criticised the public comment on the potential future changes as being "premature and naïve", adding "there has certainly been a serious lack of constructive comment".

The committee will be reviewing the need for changes to the dealing rules, the widely discussed single capacity activities of jobbers and brokers, and the abolition date for fixed commissions.

He said: "It is, however, clear that... the constitutional and regulatory framework of the Stock Exchange must be kept up to date and the market procedures and supporting technical systems must be sensibly and quickly adapted to the developing needs of members and their clients."

"In both cases we have to keep very close eye on changing commercial circumstances and do all that we can to anticipate needs rather than react to them."

The effect of an anticipated liberalization of competition has been the attempt by leading financial institutions to buy into brokers, jobbers and merchant banks. The latest to declare publicly such an interest is Globe Investment Trust.

Mr David Hardy the chairman, yesterday declared himself in the market for both brokers and banks. "Like everybody else, we are having talks - but our plans and ambitions in the financial markets are still being researched and developed," he said.

Globe admitted to being one of a large number of companies exploring the possibility of buying the merchant bank Singer & Friedlander.

Unlike its associate, Electra Investment Trust - which has also declared an interest in the bank - Globe's size would allow it to acquire Singers without surrendering the coveted investment trust tax status.

Trust trims Aspinall group stake

By Philip Robinson

Save and Prosper, Britain's largest unit trust group, has sold part of its stake in Anglo Scottish Investment Trust, where Aspinall Holdings, the casino group, has just built up a 10.1 per cent shareholding.

Mr John Manser, Save and Prosper investment director, said: "We have reduced our stake over the past month as the price in the market has come up near to asset value. A month ago we had exactly 10 per cent. Now we have under that, but I'm not prepared to discuss individual share sales."

Buying by Aspinall, of which Mr John Aspinall and Sir James Goldsmith own 40 per cent each, sent the Anglo share price in the past fortnight from 114p to near its 149p net asset value.

Mr Richard Langdon, Aspinall chairman, said yesterday: "It's not right for me to discuss where the shares came from, certainly not without asking their (owners') permission."

Save and Prosper had been a leading critic of the way in which Anglo Scottish directors awarded a contract to manage its investments to CS Investments, a company partly controlled by Mr Eric Crawford, an Anglo director.

As a result, confirmation of the CS appointment will be sought from shareholders at the annual meeting on December 22.

Boots cheer for City

Boots, the chemists and pharmaceuticals group, yesterday reported a 24.5 per cent increase in pretax profits to £65.1m for the half-year to the end of September.

This was better than the City had expected and would have been better still by some £6m but for a provision against the claw-back of chemists' remuneration by the Department of Health and Social Security.

Investors' Notebook page 22

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index: 726.8 up 2.4
FT All Shares: 452.63 up 0.07
Barringer: 15.803
Datastream USM Leaders Index: 94.17 down 0.38
New York: Closed for holiday
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index: 9,373.54 down 43.02
Hongkong: Hang Seng Index: 823.75 down 10.22
Amsterdam: 153.4 up 1.3
Sydney: AO Index: 733.8 down 10.22
Frankfurt: Commerzbank Index: 1019.5 up 7.0
Brussels: General Index: 125.44 down 0.51
Paris: CAC Index: 148.3 down 1.2

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE
Sterling \$1.4850 down 40pts
Index 83.4 down 0.01
DM 3.97 up 0.01
FrF 12.0575 up 0.0150
Yen 344.50 unchanged
Dollar Index 128.8 up 0.4
DM 2.7.75 up 35 pts
NEW YORK LATEST
Sterling \$1.4660
Dollar DM 2.7042

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Bank base rates 9
Finance houses base rate 10
Discount market loans week fixed 9-8 1/2
3 month interbank 9 1/4-9 1/2
Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 9 1/4-9 1/2
3 month DM 8 1/4-8 1/2
3 month FrF 13 1/4-13 1/2

US rates:
Bank prime rate 11.00
Fed funds 9 1/2
Treasury long bond 102 1/2-102 3/4

ECB Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme IV Average reference rate for interest period October 5 to November 1, 1983 inclusive: 9.383 per cent.

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):
am \$375.75 pm \$375.50
close \$375.25-376 (\$256-258.50)
New York (close): \$375.50
Kruggerand (per coin): \$387-388.50 (\$284-285)
Sovereigns (new): \$88-89 (\$80-80.75)
*Excludes VAT

NEWS IN BRIEF

Big fall in orders for engineers

Britain's engineering companies had one of their worst months for new orders from abroad in August, the Department of Trade and Industry reported yesterday. But the feeling within the industry is that August was an aberration.

New orders from overseas, on an index set against the monthly average for 1980, slumped to 69. Mechanical engineering suffered most of all, falling to 61, while instrument and electrical engineering was down to 80.

The quarterly trend - comparing the three months ending in August with the previous three - shows an overall drop in foreign orders of 21.5 per cent. That, however, was distorted by an exceptionally good April, when Northern Engineering Industries is believed to have received substantial contracts for Indian power station equipment. Home orders during the same periods showed an overall 9 per cent rise.

Mr Eric Parker, managing director of Trafalgar House, which took over the mantle vacated by Lord Matthews when Fleet Holdings was hived off, and assumed the role of chief executive under the chairmanship of Mr Nigel Brookes.

Group attributable profits at Anglo American, the South African mining and industrial finance company, rose by 12.6 per cent to £241m (£136m) in the six months to the end of September. The dividend was maintained at 35 cents and earnings per share, including those from associates, were 145.5 cents against 136.3 cents. But the shares were unchanged in London at £10.1 1/2.

Investors' Notebook, page 22

Extel interim profits jump to more than £5m

By Our Financial Staff

Greater activity in its financial and commercial printing markets helped the Extel communications, publishing and information services group to more than treble its interim pretax profits. They reached £5.15m in the half-year to the end of last September - against £1.5m in the similar half in 1982. This latest figure is almost as much as Extel made in the whole of 1982-83. Extel's shares jumped 46p to 416p yesterday.

The profits were achieved on a turnover up 30 per cent to £69.6m. The interim dividend is raised from 2.5p to 3p. During the first half, Extel

won control of Benn Brothers, the publishers, in a £16m takeover battle with United Newspapers.

Mr Alan Brooker, chairman and chief executive, said: "The dramatic improvement in our profits compared with last year is mainly due half-year of high activity in the financial and commercial printing markets."

Last month, Extel acquired a 75 per cent stake in MGE, a company supplying software packages and computer systems. Mr Brooker added: "At the end of the year we expect to be able to report continued progress throughout the group."

Airline takes on the charter operators

BA in Atlantic fightback

By Derek Harris
Commercial Editor

British Airways is launching a new subsidiary, Poundstretcher, as a direct competitor to the low-price transatlantic holidays and airseats operation of Jetset, recently bought by the rival British Caledonian.

At the same time British Airways announced that the founder of Jetset, Mr Reg Pycroft, would be joining it. Mr Pycroft left Jetset, which pioneered cheap transatlantic flights, while it was still part of Associated Communications Corporation.

But British Airways says he will have no connexion with the new Poundstretcher operation because of an agreement when he left Jetset that precludes him from working on a comparable operation until March 1985.

Mr Pycroft has been taken on as a consultant and has a priority job of finding ways to switch cheap remaindered British Airways tickets out of



Reg Pycroft: joining British Airways

"bucket trips" and into high street travel agents.

The aim is to put discounted tickets to European destinations into the travel agents. At present, between 2 million and 3 million such seats are not being filled.

The Poundstretcher, which

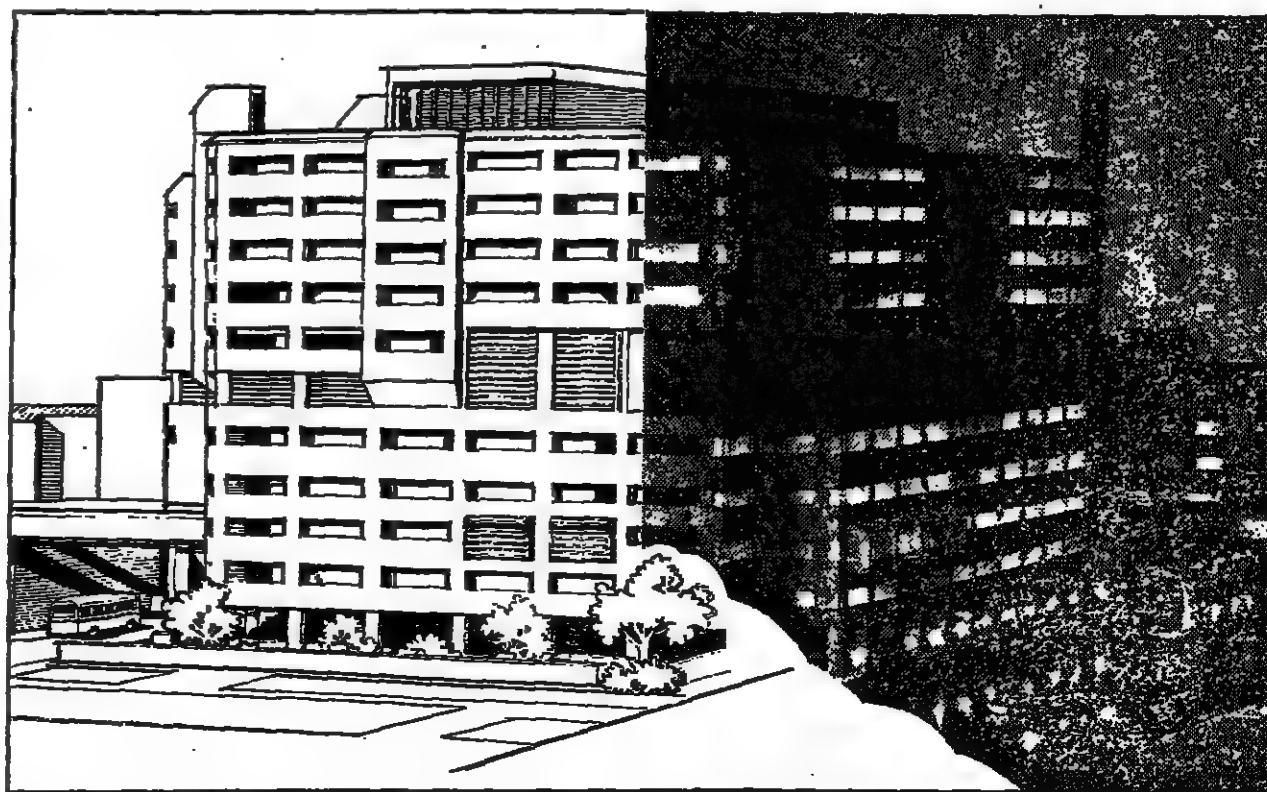
takes up a name used by British Airways in earlier advertising campaigns, will be offering 100,000 seats annually from next April on scheduled and charter flights out of Heathrow, Gatwick, Prestwick and Manchester. The seats will at first be mainly on flights to north America.

Poundstretcher prices will be "heavily competitive but not necessarily rock bottom," according to Mr Harris. Where scheduled services are used prices will not be below normal schedule fares on offer but various extras, yet to be finally decided, will be added.

Both holiday packages and seats-only deals will be on offer. It is common with this style of marketing to offer low price hotel deals, cheaper car hire and flight drinks and complementary flight bags on flights.

Jetset has been a big user of British Airways charter and scheduled services. The contract runs to the end of next summer.

French Kier builds good results



The £21M St. Mary's Hospital redevelopment contract was awarded to French Kier Construction Limited.

J. C. S. Mott, F. Eng., F.I.C.E., F.I.Struct.E.
Chairman reports on six months to 30th June 1983

- * Group profit up 16% to £5.65M (1982 £4.85M)
- * Group turnover up 10% to £118M (1982 £107M)
- * Interim dividend up 16% to 1.45p (1982 1.25p) (payable 5th January 1984)
- * Earnings per share up 16% to 6.4p (1982 5.5p)
- * Group order book maintained at satisfactory level
- * Outcome for the full year will be not unsatisfactory

Architects - Llewellyn-Davies and Weeks
Quantity Surveyors - Gardner & Theobald
Consulting Engineers (Structural) - Ove Arup & Partners
Consulting Engineers (Building Services) - Oscar Faber & Partners

RESULTS	6 months to (unaudited)	6 months to	Year to
Turnover	£118M	£107M	£257M
Profit before tax	£5.65M	£4.85M	£12.44M
Dividend per share	1.45p	1.25p	4.85p
Earnings per share	6.4p	5.5p	15.3p

(The audited profit and loss accounts for the year to 31.12.82 are an extract from the latest published accounts which have been filed with the Registrar of Companies. These accounts contain a qualified audit report regarding a material uncertainty concerning a provision relating to a joint venture in Iran. The auditors concurred with the Directors' view concerning this provision.)

FK works worldwide

French Kier Holdings Public Limited Company
50 Epping New Road, Buckhurst Hill, Essex

Norton Opax on course

By Jeremy Warner

Norton Opax, the Leeds security printer, is on course for achieving its forecast of full-year trading profits of £1.25m made at the time of its unsuccessful bid for John Waddington in July.

At the half-way stage, pretax profits jumped from £277,000 to £388,000 and the interim dividend is being raised from 0.67p to 1p.

The £4.7m acquisition of Broadprint Group is not expected to be completed until December 8 and so will only make a small contribution to full-year results.

Orders to supply six additional national lotteries, bringing the total number of countries supplied to 29, have recently been won. The initial value of the new work is over £1m and this will make a contribution to results in 1984.

COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF

Relaxprint
Half-year to 1.10.83
Pretax profit £165,000 (£25,000)
Turnover £7.4m (£6.5m)

James Burrough
Half-year to 30.9.83
Pretax profit £4m (£2.5m)
Stated earnings 13.7p (8.7p)
Turnover £24.1m (£21.5m)
Net interim dividend 3p (2.2p)

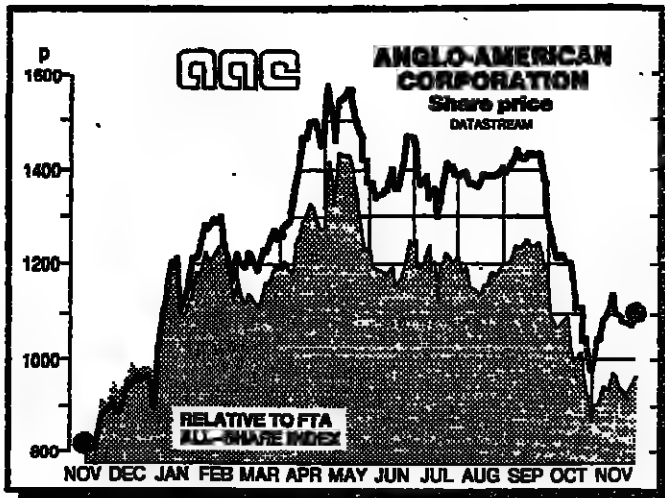
Hanover Investment (Holdings)
Half-year to 31.8.83
Pretax profit £208,000 (£101,000)
Stated earnings 3.02p (1.57p)
Turnover £2.2m (£28,000)
Net interim dividend 0.77p (0.7p)

Thomas Locker (Holdings)
Half-year to 30.9.83
Pretax profit £340,000 (£1.2m)
Stated earnings 1.05p (1.26p)
Turnover £12.5m (£14m)
Net interim dividend 0.375p (same)

French Kier Holdings
Half-year to 30.6.83
Pretax profit £5.7m (£4.9m)
Stated earnings 6.4p (5.5p)
Turnover £118m (107m)
Net interim dividend 1.45p (1.25p)

INVESTORS' NOTEBOOK • edited by Michael Prest

Weak rand boosts Anglo American



It seems churlish to cavil at a 12.6 per cent increase in group attributable profits, but Anglo American Corporation's performance owed more to the weakness of the rand rather than to spectacular success in selling its services and products.

This year's interim figures shadow those of 1982 pretty closely, with the crucial exception of the two lines - "dividends from associated companies" and "dividends from general investments". In the first case, earnings rose from R132m (£77m) to R156m, and in the second from R47.7m to R69.7m.

In the accountancy jargon, these lines are effectively the earnings from gold. It is worth remembering, to put the figures in perspective, that Anglo's group interests produce about a quarter of the gold in the West. But gold prices have not been higher this year than last.

So the answer is the rand. Fortunately for the South African mines the weakness of the gold price and the internal problems of the Republic's economy have combined with the strength of the dollar, in which of course gold is denominated, to keep profits up. Anglo was also fortunate in receiving two dividends from Rustenburg Platinum.

But even the rand effect has not been enough to offset the collapse in world coal prices. Anglo's coal subsidiary has been struggling for a while and without the surge in South African property prices which improved the results at Am-

propos its property subsidiary trading profits, which were just R3m up at R3m up at R140m, would have been worse.

Interest paid up from R88.5m, was a reflection of both the high interest rates prevailing in South Africa, and grater outlays.

The result was pretax profits of R350m against R323. While the tax bill was largely unaltered at R59.4m outside shareholders interests fell a little, to give the rise at the attributable level.

But the investments associate company, Minorco's difficulties were exemplified by the R5.7m decline in the share of profits from associated companies to R89.1m. The very bottom of Anglo's many lines, therefore, was profit before extraordinary items of R330m, a rise of 6.8 per cent.

Boots

The Boots Company looks set for a long period of sustained profits growth. Yesterday's half-year statement indicates excellent prospects for the pharmaceuticals division while the group appears to be getting to grips with the long-term problems posed by the retailing side of the business.

In the six months to the end of September pretax profits rose by 24.5 per cent from £52.3m to £65.1m. They would have been a lot better but for a 6m provision in retailing against the clawback of chemists' remuneration by the Department of Health and Social Security.

Even so, retailing profits made a gain against the poor results of the corresponding period and after adding back in

the provision, profit margins in the chemists have shown a marked improvement, rising from 2.87 per cent last time to 4 per cent.

Though the retailing side had a good second half last year, the current Christmas season is off to a buoyant start and there is evidence that the shop-within-shop concept being experimented at three branches is beginning to do the trick of improving the traditionally low level of average spending by Boots customers.

But it is in the United States that the real excitement for Boots lies. In the first half sales by the US subsidiary rose 70 per cent to £19.3m while profits rose several times over on the back of Rufin which has improved its share of Upjohn's Motrin market from 5.5 per cent a year ago to 11 per cent now.

In Britain Nurofen, a new pain killing drug, has already achieved its sales targets in the over-the-counter market for the whole of this year, which augurs well for its success in the US. The US Food and Drug Administration approval for it is expected soon.

Redland

Everything in Redland's brick and concrete garden is looking rosy. Half time profits to the end of September were up 40 per cent and shareholders get a 15 per cent lift in the interim dividend.

Trading in the second half is continuing at buoyant levels,

Argyll Group profit jumps by £8.1m

By Andrew Cornelius

Argyll Group, the new holding company for Mr James Gulliver's Argyll Foods and Amalgamated Distilled Products companies, yesterday reported an £8.1m increase in pretax profits to £18.1m for the six months to September 30.

The results were achieved on a turnover of £697.6m, against £595.8m at the comparable stage last year, when Argyll Foods and ADP traded separately.

Mr Gulliver said that the first half results put Argyll Group on course for its previous forecast of pretax profits of £36.5m for the full year.

The board has recommended payment of an interim dividend of 1.75p net, and expects to recommend a final dividend of 2.75p at the final stage.

Mr Gulliver said that the group is continuing to trade strongly and that early expectations are that the Christmas trading period will be satisfactory.

The Presto food stores chain increased its turnover by 16 per cent to £270m, about 40 per cent of total group turnover. The result was helped by increased sales from the existing stores and the opening of two new stores at Stourbridge, West Midlands and Portsmouth.

A further 12 stores will be opened by next March, including six new Key Markets

Argyll Group
Half-year to 30.9.83
Pretax profit £18.1m (£10m)
Stated earnings 7.7p (4.6p)
Turnover £697.6m (£595.8m)
Net interim dividend 1.75p
Share price 140p down 3p
Dividend payable 20.1.84

developments which were acquired from Dee Corporation in a £6m deal earlier this month. This will bring the number of Presto stores to 150 and Mr Gulliver is confident that he will achieve the target of opening 20 new stores each year by 1985.

Argyll's other retail businesses, which include the Liptons and Templeton stores, also managed strong volume growth, while Mojo and Snowking, the wholesale distribution businesses maintained their contribution.

Trading profits of the former Argyll Foods group increased from £9.2m to £13.7m.

ADP, the Scotch whisky division, reported increased trading profits of £4.4m against losses of £52,000 last time, helped by a £290,000 contribution from the acquisition of Barton Brands, the US drinks business which have Scottish whisky operation.

Barton made increased operating profits of £4.2m on sales of £61.5m with strong growth in demand for gin, vodka and tequila coming through.

There was also an improved contribution from the Liquorave group of off-licences.

£27m BSC deal with TI will cut 400 jobs

By Our Financial Staff

TI Group and the British Steel Corporation have agreed a £27m deal to rationalize seamless tube manufacturing interests in Corby and Wednesfield in the West Midlands with the loss of 400 jobs.

The two companies said yesterday that the decision to establish a new company to be called Seamless Tubes could lead to the closure of TI's Pilger Mill in Wednesfield and the hot mill section of BSC's plug mill at Corby.

BSC will take a 74.5 per cent stake in the new company and TI Group a 25.5 per cent stake. The new company will employ 1,200 people and help ensure

that Britain remains competitive in the seamless tube market where there is oversupply of 200,000 tonnes each year.

BSC and TI first discussed the possibility of merging their tube manufacturing businesses in 1979. But after a brief upsurge in demand from the oil industry the talks lapsed and did not resume again until the market turned down again about 15 months ago.

The essence of the plan is to close BSC's loss-making plug mill in Corby and transfer production to the TI plant at Wednesfield which is regarded as the most modern plant in the British steel industry.

LONDON COMMODITY PRICES	
Coffee, cocoa, sugar in pounds per cwt. Subsidy in £s per metric ton.	
Dec	145.00-144.50
Jan	142.00-141.50
Feb	140.00-139.50
Mar	138.00-137.50
Apr	136.00-135.50
May	134.00-133.50
Jun	132.00-131.50
Jul	130.00-129.50
Aug	128.00-127.50
Sep	126.00-125.50
Oct	124.00-123.50
Nov	122.00-121.50
Dec	120.00-119.50
Jan	118.00-117.50
Feb	116.00-115.50
Mar	114.00-113.50
Apr	112.00-111.50
May	110.00-109.50
Jun	108.00-107.50
Jul	106.00-105.50
Aug	104.00-103.50
Sep	102.00-101.50
Oct	100.00-99.50
Nov	98.00-97.50
Dec	96.00-95.50
Jan	94.00-93.50
Feb	92.00-91.50
Mar	90.00-89.50
Apr	88.00-87.50
May	86.00-85.50
Jun	84.00-83.50
Jul	82.00-81.50
Aug	80.00-79.50
Sep	78.00-77.50
Oct	76.00-75.50
Nov	74.00-73.50
Dec	72.00-71.50
Jan	70.00-69.50
Feb	68.00-67.50
Mar	66.00-65.50
Apr	64.00-63.50
May	62.00-61.50
Jun	60.00-59.50
Jul	58.00-57.50
Aug	56.00-55.50
Sep	54.00-53.50
Oct	52.00-51.50
Nov	50.00-49.50
Dec	48.00-47.50
Jan	46.00-45.50
Feb	44.00-43.50
Mar	42.00-41.50
Apr	40.00-39.50
May	38.00-37.50
Jun	36.00-35.50
Jul	34.00-33.50
Aug	32.00-31.50
Sep	30.00-29.50
Oct	28.00-27.50
Nov	26.00-25.50
Dec	24.00-23.50
Jan	22.00-21.50
Feb	20.00-19.50
Mar	18.00-17.50
Apr	16.00-15.50
May	14.00-13.50
Jun	12.00-11.50
Jul	10.00-9.50
Aug	8.00-7.50
Sep	6.00-5.50
Oct	4.00-3.50
Nov	2.00-1.50
Dec	0.00-0.50

LONDON METAL EXCHANGES	
Official turnover figures.	
Dec	145.00-144.50
Jan	142.00-141.50
Feb	140.00-139.50
Mar	138.00-137.50
Apr	136.00-135.50
May	134.00-133.50
Jun	132.00-131.50
Jul	130.00-129.50
Aug	128.00-127.50
Sep	126.00-125.50
Oct	124.00-123.50
Nov	122.00-121.50
Dec	120.00-119.50
Jan	118.00-117.50
Feb	116.00-115.50
Mar	114.00-113.50
Apr	112.00-111.50
May	110.00-109.50
Jun	108.00-107.50
Jul	106.00-105.50
Aug	104.00-103.50
Sep	102.00-101.50
Oct	100.00-99.50
Nov	98.00-97.50
Dec	96.00-95.50
Jan	94.00-93.50
Feb	92.00-91.50
Mar	90.00-89.50
Apr	88.00-87.50
May	86.00-85.50
Jun	84.00-83.50
Jul	82.00-81.50
Aug	80.00-79.50
Sep	78.00-77.50
Oct	76.00-75.50
Nov	74.00-73.50
Dec	72.00-71.50
Jan	70.00-69.50
Feb	68.00-67.50
Mar	66.00-65.50
Apr	64.00-63.50
May	62.00-61.50
Jun	60.00-59.50
Jul	58.00-57.50
Aug	56.00-55.50
Sep	54.00-53.50
Oct	52.00-51.50
Nov	50.00-49.50
Dec	48.00-47.50
Jan	46.00-45.50
Feb	44.00-43.50
Mar	42.00-41.50
Apr	40.00-39.50
May	38.00-37.50
Jun	36.00-35.50
Jul	34.00-33.50
Aug	32.00-31.50
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May	14.00-13.50
Jun	12.00-11.50
Jul	10.00-9.50
Aug	8.00-7.50
Sep	6.00-5.50
Oct	4.00-3.50
Nov	2.00-1.50
Dec	0.00-0.50

COMMODITIES	
Dec	145.00-144.50
Jan	142.00-141.50
Feb	140.00-139.50
Mar	138.00-137.50
Apr	136.00-135.50
May	134.00-133.50
Jun	132.00-131.50
Jul	130.00-129.50
Aug	128.00-127.50
Sep	126.00-125.50
Oct	124.00-123.50
Nov	122.00-121.50
Dec	120.00-119.50
Jan	118.00-117.50
Feb	116.00-115.50
Mar	114.00-113.50
Apr	112.00-111.50
May	110.00-109.50
Jun	108.00-107.50
Jul	106.00-105.50
Aug	104.00-103.50
Sep	102.00-101.50
Oct	100.00-99.50
Nov	98.00-97.50
Dec	96.00-95.50
Jan	94.00-93.50
Feb	92.00-91.50
Mar	90.00-89.50
Apr	88.00-87.50
May	86.00-85.50
Jun	84.00-83.50
Jul	82.00-81.50
Aug	80.00-79.50
Sep	78.00-77.50
Oct	76.00-75.50
Nov	74.00-73.50
Dec	72.00-71.50
Jan	70.00-69.50
Feb	68.00-67.50
Mar	66.00-65.50
Apr	64.00-63.50
May	62.00-61.50
Jun	60.00-59.50
Jul	58.00-57.50
Aug	56.00-55.50
Sep	54.00-53.50
Oct	52.00-51.50
Nov	50.00-49.50
Dec	48.00-47.50
Jan	46.00-45.50
Feb	44.00-43.50
Mar	42.00-41.50
Apr	40.00-39.50
May	38.00-37.50
Jun	36.00-35.50
Jul	34.00-33.50
Aug	32.00-31.50
Sep	30.00-29.50
Oct	28.00-27.50
Nov	26.00-25.50
Dec	24.00-23.50
Jan	22.00-21.50
Feb	20.00-19.50
Mar	18.00-17.50
Apr	16.00-15.50
May	14.00-13.50
Jun	12.00-11.50
Jul	10.00-9.50
Aug	8.00-7.50
Sep	6.00-5.50
Oct	4.00-3.50
Nov	2.00-1.50
Dec	0.00-0.50

LONDON INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL	
Dec	145.00-144.50
Jan	142.00-141.50
Feb	140.00-139.50
Mar	138.00-137.50
Apr	136.00-135.50
May	134.00-133.50
Jun	132.00-131.50
Jul	130.00-129.50
Aug	128.00-127.50
Sep	126.00-125.50
Oct	124.00-123.50
Nov	122.00-121.50
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Jul	106.00-105.50
Aug	104.00-103.50
Sep	102.00-101.50
Oct	100.00-99.50
Nov	98.00-97.50
Dec	96.00-95.50
Jan	94.00-93.50
Feb	92.00-91.50
Mar	90.00-89.50
Apr	88.00-87.50
May	86.00-85.50
Jun	84.00-83.50
Jul	82.00-81.50
Aug	80.00-79.50
Sep	78.00-77.50
Oct	76.00-7

Japan Two: Graham Searjeant and John Lawless look at the export circus

Shadow boxing that keeps export drives in low gear

A bizarre event took place in Kensington's Royal Garden Hotel last week. A group of Japanese businessmen and retailers, headed by Mr Yohei Mimura, president of Mitsubishi Corporation, conducted a seminar for British businessmen to help them export to Japan.

That any manufacturing country should actually encourage competitive imports is extraordinary enough despite the £2.5 billion trade gap. The response of the invited British audience, three times larger than expected, was, on the surface, even more amazing. After the Japanese had spent an hour lecturing their guests on how to tackle the notorious - if not obviously too different - Japanese distribution system, how to get involved in joint ventures and win royalties by licensing technology, the British simply complained. They had heard it all before, they said. Unless letting off steam is a great boon to international trading relations, the meeting could not be called a success.

The meeting could not be called a success

Japanese businessmen on the Japanese Market Access Promotion Mission ranged from philosophical cheerfulness among those well-versed in the ways of the West to the suppressed anger of some to whom this was a new experience.

But it was good training on relatively welcoming ground. The circus then flew off to Brussels and four other European industrial centres. It was Paris they were really dreading.

That all these leading businessmen were prepared to jet round the world taking such punishment shows how seriously Japan takes the threat of protectionism posed by its hefty trade surpluses with America, Britain and the rest of the European Community.

A large proportion of key Japanese exports are subject to discriminatory quota restrictions throughout the great citadels of free trade and the political pressures are growing greater daily.

The mission also underlined a cohesiveness in Japan Limited that many see as the heart of the problem. It is inconceivable that British or American store owners would undertake such a

task for the sake of machinery exporters. Since Britain is still running an overall trading surplus, it has no logical trade grievance against Japan. The existence of an imbalance between two individual countries is an irrelevance, an intrinsic element in a multilateral world trade system.

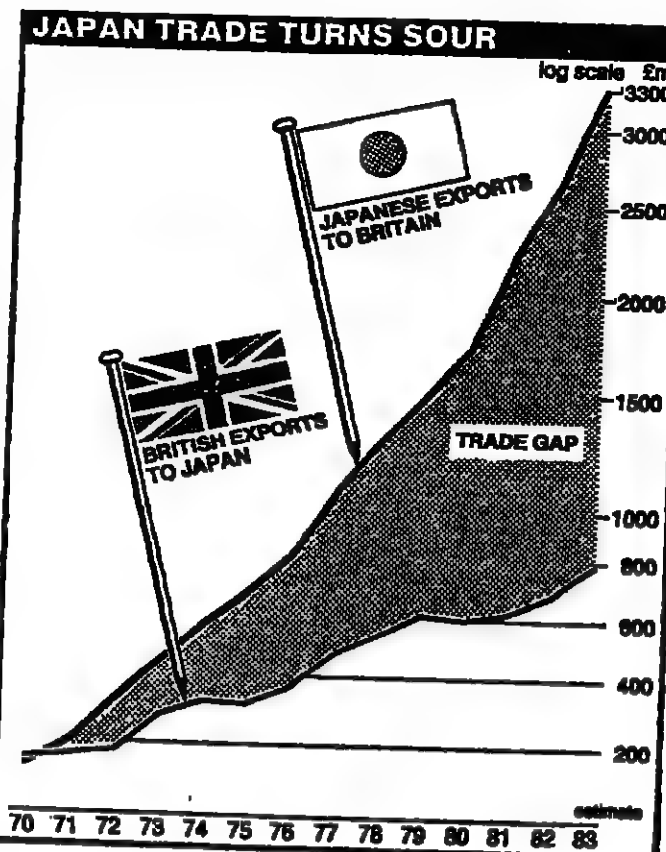
If there is a problem it lies not in imports from Japan so much as the failure of exports to Japan to match the potential of a single market of 115 million people with high discretionary spending power.

Why is this so? For some time, exporters have not been able to complain about Japanese tariffs. Though these are still skewed against certain exportable products, the old protection has long gone. In cars for instance, Japan levies no tariff, though we levy more than 10 per cent.

Once when we put an additional serial number on to our engine block, they stopped our car. And when Lucas changed the serial number on one component within a lamp-

It was Paris the Japanese businessmen were dreading

assembly we fitted, they did the same thing. Mr Kenosuke Inazuki of the Japan Automobile Importers Association could plausibly deflate this argument as largely a thing of the past. And Japan's Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) can point to its trade ombudsman, charged with investigating com-



plaints of bureaucratic obstructions, to its current review of standards and testing procedures, or to its 124 business consultants stationed in European cities to aid the distressed would-be importer.

That leaves a general feeling of sheer frustration as European exporters are urged to be patient and try harder. "British companies export something like 30 per cent of our GNP yet we find it extraordinarily difficult to export to Japan," charged the CBI's Mr Ken Edwards. "There must be positive discrimination to encourage imports".

JETRO, the Japan External Trade Organization, which is undergoing a schizophrenic about-face from export to import promotion can even provide answers to that. Japan has recently introduced an interest rate subsidy for importers. The prime minister Mr Nakasone himself earlier this year appealed to incredulous

Japanese people for their "understanding and co-operation in welcoming foreign manufactured goods and investment", not a plea too many democratic politicians would hazard in election year.

Yet the Nomura Research Institute is still forecasting a rise from \$7 billion to \$21 billion in Japan's current account balance of payments this year, with only a marginal fall next year.

Leaving America's self-imposed exchange-rate handicap to one side, is there any reason why Japan, as the champion industrial country, should not run a continuing trade surplus matched by investment abroad, just as Britain did in the old days?

Perhaps the emphasis on exports to Japan should be seen merely as an elaborate form of shadow-boxing, a proxy for the real battle to limit (or safeguard) Japanese exports.

Britain and Europe regard Japan as a market consonant in importance with its position as the world's number two economy.

There are, for instance, more than 10 times as many Japanese business people working in the European Community countries as European traders in Japan. The British export marketing centre in Tokyo, a brainchild of the Heath era, has close, despite Japanese aid in recent years.

It should be said, however, that the trade department's Export to Japan unit is one of its most vigorous and the only one devoted to a single country.

Perhaps the biggest cultural factor behind the trade imbalance is the language barrier. English has been Japan's first foreign language since the war. Yet in Britain, only four British universities have schools of Japanese, some of those aided by Japan. The first sign that we were taking the Japanese market seriously would be a rapid explosion of Japanese language teaching in this country.

Britain sells about £800m of industrial and consumer goods annually to Japan, with a highly successful trade in pharmaceuticals and ethnic luxury goods from cashmere to dashboards. The biggest opportunities in the Japanese market lie in food. Perhaps, despite all the bluster, Britain's exporters are right to give greater priority to Europe, the Middle East and rising Commonwealth markets.

'There must be positive discrimination to help imports'

As hard-headed new British Overseas Trade Board study of opportunities for Anglo-Japanese joint ventures in the transport sector, while pointing to specialized markets for fire-fighting vehicles and the like, warns that "we cannot overstate the problems in the long and difficult task of pursuing these opportunities. Anyone with the

lack of will, finance and perseverance to commit themselves fully would be well advised not to attempt it." Between the lines, the report implies that the best hope is to form joint ventures to neutralize Japanese encroachment in existing third country markets.

Some of the complaints at last week's seminar point the same way. Japan's motor distributors, it seems, are already tied up with Japanese firms. Middle managers, who often make the real purchasing decisions, need re-educating to accept imports.

Yet these are precisely the conditions which prevailed in Britain a generation ago, until industrial decay, bad design and unreliable, strike-hit domestic supplies opened the way for a re-consideration of foreign goods. Given these problems, it is clear that if British industry was to make any concerted assault on the Japanese market, it would have to adopt the tactics employed by Japanese industry.

We would set up substantial presence on the ground in

English is Japan's first foreign language

Japan. We should exploit our many superb but under-promoted international brand names to sell a wider range of goods.

And we should adopt the rifle-shot approach, targeting certain areas for export pushes by a combination of collaborating firms.

Ironically, Japan's huge appetite for eating humble pie as a cheap method of appeasing European industry tends to deter any such heroic assault by offering the ever-tantalizing prospect of unofficial protection against Japanese imports on the one hand and red carpet treatment for our goods on the other.

Japan's government and industry is highly cautious. It might be better if they took a more aggressive line, refusing to renew voluntary restraint agreements and challenging Europe to live up to its formal free trade policy.

Only when all hopes of protectionism are gone will European businessmen be forced to stop whingeing and take the Japanese market seriously.

London in late bid to make its mark

A meeting at the House of Commons today will attempt to create a rallying force to bring a new EEC agency to London.

The Prime Minister is keen to have the agency - the Community Trade Marks Office - in this country. It would be a manifestation of the British commitment to the EEC (and vice versa) and a small but visible demonstration of the benefits to Mrs Thatcher's electorate of Community membership.

Trade marks are a motif or wording registered by a manufacturer and used to make products immediately recognizable.

A trade mark is valuable property, and so is the trade marks office. The Commission believes it would handle more than 15,000 "proceedings" a year. It would employ about 200 people, but perhaps another 1,500 would be employed in the offices of trade mark agents and lawyers.

But the case for London has been put forward timidly and with a lack of coordination. London is far from being a favourite to receive the office.

Today's late rallying call has been organized by Iain Mills, the Conservative MP for Meriden, West Midlands, and parliamentary private secretary to Mr Norman Tebbit, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry. He has invited the Lord Mayor of London, peers, MPs, MEPs, trade mark agents and big trademark holders in industry.

Mr Mills wants the participants to form a national committee for the siting of the trade mark office in London. It would then "call a meeting of anybody who is interested, and get the entire three sections - commerce and industry, the trade marks profession and Parliament - all working together".

EEC patent office went to Munich after another unsuccessful attempt by Britain. Having the patent office is one advantage that Munich has over London in the present battle. Another is the understanding between the German Chancellor, Herr Kohl, and the Bavarian leader, Herr Strauss - and the understanding between them and the German business community a commitment and an ability to press hard in Brussels for the trade mark office to be sited in Munich.

So tempting is the office that a number of other British cities, among them Birmingham, Manchester and Swansea, put in bids at one time or another. This was embarrassing for the Government since it had already told Brussels that London was its preferred site.

Until the office is set up, manufacturers must register - and protect - their trade mark in each of the 10 EEC countries, each with its own language and procedures. Most applicants to the British office are EEC companies.

In this country, Trade Mark No. 1, registered when the Department of Trade's registry opened in 1876, was the red triangle which adorns the labels of Bass beer. No. 2 was another drinks company, the Monastery of La Grande Chartreuse, followed by the King of Saxony who was determined to protect in Britain the marks used by the "Royal manufactory of Meissen".

The millionth mark, registered eight years ago, was by Pierre Fabre, a French pharmaceutical company.

Mrs Thatcher is having circulated copies of the Greater London Council's pitch for the office. Given that the Government is pledged to abolishing the GLC, the document could become a collector's item.

Yet neither Mrs Thatcher nor Mr Tebbit can argue in Brussels... as the Germans can... that they "cannot" give ground because they are being leaned on by MPs, in turn under pressure from trade mark agents and trade holders.

According to Mr Mills, "the level of House of Commons interest in those days in intellectual property was just about zero. It's now about two plus one or two".

Ross Davies

Financial data tables including stock prices, company performance, and market indices.

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also on page 30

From Chris Moore in Königssee

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PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES

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Top earnings up 10 times faster than average pay

The real take-home pay of Britain's big earners has grown 10 times as fast as that of the average worker, according to figures from the treasury yesterday.

A married man with two children earning £80,000 a year has seen his real take-home pay grow by 54 per cent since 1978/9, while a similar man on average earnings of about £8,000 has received a boost of just 5.7 per cent.

For a single man, the gap is even wider. The £80,000-a-year earner has received a 57.9 per cent real increase, compared with 5.4 per cent for the average earner.

The figures take account of tax, National Insurance deductions, and increases in prices and earnings in the last six years. They illustrate that, while almost every earner has received a boost to real take-home pay, the increase has been far greater for high earners.

For a married man with two children, the increase over the six years has been 4.3 per cent for those earning two thirds of average earnings, 5.7 per cent for those on average earnings, 12 per cent for those on five times the average, and 53.9 per cent for those on 10 times the average.

The figures are contained in a written Commons reply from the Treasury, to a question from

Mr Jeff Rookes, Labour MP for Birmingham Perry Barr.

The main reason why the high earners have done so well is a dramatic drop in the tax burden on them, the result of the first main budget by the then Chancellor, Sir Geoffrey Howe.

A married man with two children and earning two thirds the national average saw taxes and other deductions take 12 per cent of gross income in 1978/79. In the present tax year he will pay 14.2 per cent.

The same family man on average earnings of about £8,000 a year paid 21.2 per cent in taxes in 1978/79 but now pays 22.5 per cent. By contrast those on above average earnings have seen their tax bills drop.

A similar family man earning about £40,000 a year - five times the national average - had tax deductions amounting to 49.2 per cent in 1978/79. This was down to 42.3 per cent in 1983/84. And a man on 10 times the average (£80,000) has seen his tax bill fall from 65.9 per cent to 51.2 per cent in six years.

Mr Rookes said yesterday: "These figures confirm that the massive increase in taxation, including national insurance under this Government has fallen on wage earners on average earnings and less,

Saying it with flowers



Flower time: A garlanded Prince and Princess of Wales at the Waltham Forest Asian centre, Walthamstow, east London, which they opened yesterday. Below, young dancers offer trays of flowers.



All-party talks offered on Ulster security

Continued from page 1

He says that the invitation has gone to all constitutional parties, whether they are taking part in the Assembly or not, and that it is not tied to involvement with the Assembly.

He says: "It is separate from that, it is a necessary step given the circumstances of the last few days."

Mr Prior makes clear that Sir John Hermon, the chief constable, and Lieutenant-General Sir Robert Richardson, the GOC, Northern Ireland, would attend the talks.

Mr Molyneux described Mr Prior's invitation as a move in the right direction, although he made clear that there was unlikely to be early reconsideration of the decision to boycott the Assembly.

The attendance of the chief constable and the GOC would be an advance,

Andropov hits back with sea missiles threat

Continued from page 1

peoples and the whole of mankind."

Diplomats said clarification of Soviet counter-measures could be expected after a meeting of Warsaw pact defence ministers in Sofia, in the second half of December. The meeting was announced yesterday.

● SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA: President Reagan expressed dismay yesterday at Mr Andropov's statement (AFP reports). "We can only be dismayed at this Soviet statement," the President said.

"It is as sharp variance with the stated wish of the Soviet Union that an agreement be negotiated. We are determined to renew our efforts to entirely do away with the land-based intermediate range nuclear missile systems. We continue to seek negotiations in good faith."

Letters, page 15

Howe's EEC optimism doubted

By Anthony Bevins Political Correspondent

A Cabinet source last night predicted a long-term impasse over the European Community budget and the problems of the Common Agriculture Policy - in direct conflict with the public optimism which has been expressed by Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary.

The flat contradiction, which will add to the growing impression of Cabinet disarray, was based on the view that as the Government had no intention of giving anything away on an increase in own-resource Community contributions, Market partners would refuse to deliver any concessions to meet British complaints on the budget or the agricultural policy.

Ministers have apparently seen no indication of a build-up for next month's Athens summit, and one source last night described the Whitehall preparation as indifferent.

But beyond Athens, it was not felt that there would be any solution to the long-standing crisis next year. It was said that this was not pessimism, but people would be deceiving themselves if they felt that the other Community members were showing any goodwill in resolving the financial difficulties on British terms.

Those remarks, made privately, contrast starkly with an interview given by Sir Geoffrey to *Le Monde* on October 18.

Sir Geoffrey said then that even though he was responding to the budgetary and agricultural policy problems "in a very practical and urgent fashion", he added: "I believe a solution is possible at Athens."

But he also said: "We in Britain are prepared to consider the proposals made by some of our partners for an increase in own resources, provided there is a proper solution to the budget problem and provided there is a strict binding financial guideline covering the cost of the C.A.P."

Other ministers feel that there can be no commitment at that point, if only because, as the Government would not concede, consideration would be an empty promise.

The aggression of such remarks have to be read against the background of a Commons debate next week, and the possibility that Tory backbench hardliners might rebel at the slightest whiff of concession.

Frank Johnson in the Commons

A poignant glimpse of what might have been

With Mrs Thatcher im-mured at the Commonwealth conference in New Delhi, Mr John Biffen, the Leader of the House, deputised at Prime Minister's questions yesterday.

More poignant was the substitute on the Opposition side, Mr Neil Kinnock, the Leader of the Opposition, was away at some socialist gathering in Brussels. Mr Roy Hattersley deputised for him in some entertaining exchanges with Mr Biffen.

This substitution on the Opposition side was a reminder of what might have been. It was almost two months to the day since the assassination of Mr Hattersley at Brighton. Like most members of my generation, I can remember exactly where I was and what I was doing at that terrible moment.

It being a Sunday evening, most of the rest of the generation was in the pub or drunk elsewhere. By chance I had chosen that day to follow Mr Hattersley on his fatal trip to Brighton, a town he always detested, and was getting ready to write a load of old nonsense.

Suddenly, someone shouted out that Mr Hattersley had been hit by a high velocity Transport and General Workers' Union block vote. A few minutes later came confirmation that he was beaten.

Not long after that the world learned who had done it: a Welsh drifter, with a grudge against society, named Neil Kinnock. Ever since then there has been endless speculation that Mr Kinnock did not act alone, that he was part of a left-wing conspiracy possibly organised from Cuba. Certainly, it suited Cuba's interests to have Mr Kinnock leading the British Labour Party.

But what did it matter who did it? The only truth that mattered that day in October was that Roy was gone. For the rest of us, hope went that day too. It is not his achievements that form the basis of the Hattersley legend. For his contribution to mankind had only just begun.

Having been elected in 1964, he had been in Parliament for a mere 19 fleeting years. No, what was important about him was his promise. He was always making promises - to colleagues, to voters during general elections.

And then there was the Hattersley style. Revisionists have mocked it and denied that it was accompanied by

any substance. What they cannot deny is his wit, his physical grace, his campaign manager Mr Gerald Kaufman, his command of understatement and indeed his command of overstatement.

He was essayist, orator, journalist, Sheffield Wednesday supporter. He was perhaps the last Western leader who could find the phrase to move vast crowds. Who will ever forget his inspired cry: "Ich bin eine Yorkshiremännchen!"

Hattersley was accused of cultivating the media. Certainly there was no shortage of journalists prepared to describe him as "able", "capable", "moderate", and the author of "a good read every Saturday in *The Guardian*".

Once it became fashionable to debunk the Hattersley myth, they all denied they ever wrote things like that. But there was never any reluctance on the part of journalists to experience the glamour of a weekend at the Hattersley family compound in Sheffield.

And for a few searing moments yesterday we experienced what Mr Hattersley would have been like had he been spared. He asked Mr Biffen about "the sophisticated satellite" which, according to a Number 10 briefing, is keeping the Prime Minister in touch with every nuance of Government policy.

Then, in a reference to the extremely wet speech made the other day by Mr Peter Walker, the Secretary of State for Energy, came a typical touch straight out of the Hattersley years. "Was it used to clear the speech by Secretary for Energy on Tuesday?"

Mr Biffen, a worthy rival, had clearly expected trouble over that Walker speech. For he had come armed with a selective quotation from it. This was the one dry passage: a bit about the inadequacy of the western response to the Soviet military build-up.

"He spoke with a voice which finds fewer and fewer echoes on Labour benches," said Mr Biffen. Mr Hattersley immediately shot back with a characteristically understated remark about a collective cabinet responsibility. "Does each cabinet minister speak for himself or does each cabinet minister speak for the Government?" he asked, stylishly.

It was difficult to believe that this man was no longer with us.

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements

The Prince of Wales, Colonel-in-Chief, the 22nd (Cheshire) Regiment and the Royal Regiment of Wales (24/41st Foot) visits Headquarters, the Prince of Wales's Division at Lichfield, Staffordshire, 10.05; and later accompanied by the Princess of Wales, he opens the British Racing School at Snailwell Road, Newmarket, Cambridgeshire, 3.15.

Northumberland Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs

annual general meeting in Alnwick Castle, Northumberland, 5.45.

Princess Margaret, as President of the Royal Scottish Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children, attends a reception to be given by the Secretary of State for Scotland at Bute House, Edinburgh, 6.15.

The Duke of Kent, as Chairman of the National Electronics Council, attends the first residential course of the Council's "Careers in IT" Programme at the Electrical and Electronic Technicians and Plum-

ing Union's Residential Training Centre at Esher, Surrey, 9.10.

The Duchess of Kent, as Chancellor, visits Leeds University, arrives Leeds Station, 3.10.

Prince Michael visits the Royal Hospital School, Holbrook, Suffolk, 3.

New exhibitions

Dreamland: The British seaside out of season by Clive Frost and John Sims. Impressionist Gallery of Photography, 17 Colindale Avenue, London, N4, 10 to 6, closed Sun and Mon (ends Dec 24).

Last chance to see

Paintings by John G. Crawford at the Cornerstone Gallery, Cathedral Square, Durham, Central Scotland, Mon to Sat 10 to 1 & 2 to 5 (ends today).

Victorian Art Pottery, 1865 to 1920, the Glass Gallery, Lloyd's House, 16 Lloyd Street, Manchester, Mon to Fri 9 to 5.30 (ends today).

Royal Tunbridge Wells Art Club, annual exhibition, Tunbridge Wells; Mon to Fri 10 to 5.30 (ends today).

Elysian Gardens - the history and conservation of formal gardens. Falmouth Art Gallery, Municipal Buildings, The Moor, Falmouth, Cornwall; Mon to Fri 10 to 1 and 2 to 4.30 (ends today).

Exhibitions in progress

Whitworth Young Contemporaries, '83; Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester University, Whitworth Park; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Thurs 10 to 9 (until Dec 17).

Musical

Concert by the Hilliard Ensemble, Bluecoat Hall, School Lane, Liverpool, 7.30.

Concert by RAF Band, Colston Hall, Colston Street, Bristol, 7.30.

Concert by University Orchestra Society, Wills Memorial Building, University of Bristol, Queen's Road, Bristol, 1.15.

Organ recital by Stuart Campbell, Reid Concert Hall, Edinburgh, 1.10.

Concert by Scottish Chamber Orchestra, Music Hall, Aberdeen, 7.30.

Concert by USSR State Symphony Orchestra, Royal Concert Hall, Theatre Square, Nottingham, 7.30.

Choir followed by the medieval "Play of Adam" at Christ Church, Christchurch Road, Reading, 8.30.

Musical entertainment with Nicholas Daniel (oboe) the 1980 Young Musician of the Year and Julia Drake (piano) Feltham School Chapel, 7.30.

General

Annual Craft Market, Brewery Arts Centre, Kendal, Cumbria, Fri 10.30 to 5.30, Sat 9.30 to 4.30.

Parliament today

Commons (9.30) Social Security (Age of Retirement) Bill, second reading.

Food prices

Traditional farm-fresh turkeys could be in short supply in some areas this year according to the regional poultry association. Although this has been a good growing season fewer farmers are able to devote the time and skill necessary to produce these birds which are "reared by hand, plucked by hand and allowed to hang for several days to improve the texture and flavour before being prepared for the oven." Prices will range from £1.00 to £1.10 a lb, which is considerably dearer than a frozen bird, but for the discerning cook the additional expense will be considered worthwhile. Frozen birds from Bejam cost 56p a lb until January 18. They also supply everything one needs to know about buying, defrosting and cooking a frozen bird. Marks and Spencer fresh chickens are still down to 69p a lb for all sizes. There are slight increases in some cuts of lamb. Whole legs range from £1.28 to £1.60 a lb, whole shoulders from £1.00 to £1.10 and loin chops £1.20 to £1.40 a lb. Leg of pork ranges from 89p to £1.20 a lb. Beef roasting joints show no change but mince and stewing steak have increased fractionally.

Tesco have thick pork and beef sausages at 49p a lb, ideal for a warming beef casserole. Packs of 50 cocktail sausages at Bejam cost 99p.

Last postal calls

The last posting date to send Christmas greetings to servicemen in the South Atlantic and Northern Ireland by the special free airmail is December 16, as also for Christmas cards and letters. The first blue aerogramme forms are available from post offices everywhere. They can be posted free if they are addressed to BFPOs 630, 666, 677 and HM ships in the South Atlantic. A free aerogramme service also operates to and from servicemen in Northern Ireland at BFPOs 801 to 805 inclusive.

The pound

Bank Bank Bank
Australia \$ 1.65 1.57
Austria Sch 29.10 27.50
Belgium F 34.15 31.25
Canada \$ 1.47 1.45
Denmark Kr 14.85 14.15
Finland Mk 8.82 8.42
France Fr 124.00 11.90
Germany DM 4.10 3.91
Greece Dr 160.00 152.00
Hongkong \$ 84.15 81.25
Italy Lira 2480.00 2370.00
Japan Yen 360.00 342.00
Netherlands Gld 4.62 4.39
Norway Kr 11.46 10.86
Portugal Esc 202.00 192.00
South Africa Rd 1.81 1.68
Spain Pta 235.00 226.00
Sweden Kr 12.09 11.52
Switzerland Fr 3.32 3.15
USA \$ 1.51 1.46
Yugoslavia Dnr 220.00 207.00

Notes for small denominations bank notes only, as supplied by Barclay Bank International Ltd. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

Retail Price Index: 340.7.
London: The FT Index closed up 2.4.

Roads

Midlands: A52: Contraflow at Sandiacre on Derby to Nottingham Road, Derbyshire. A45: Lane closures in both directions on Newmarket to Cambridge Road. A14: Lane closures on Huntingdon bypass.

North: A6120: Leeds Outer Ring Road. Roadworks, delays in junction with Spenn Lane, Leeds. M1: Contraflow with delays between junctions 33 and 34. South: A637: Bailey bridge in use in Barnsley Road between Dorton and Barnhill, traffic lights, delays expected.

Scotland: A68: All southbound traffic and northbound traffic over 30 cwt diverted round of Dalkeith; northbound traffic reduced to single lane. A1: Carriageway reconstruction between Dunbar and Cockburnspath; single lane traffic with lights. A7: Surface damage and road widening south of Goresbridge; two sets of single lane traffic controlled by lights.

Information supplied by AA

Anniversaries

Births: Lope de Vega, Madrid, 1562; Joseph Lancaster, educator, London, 1778; Andrew Carnegie, Dunfermline, 1835; Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli - Pope John XXIII, 1958-63, Sotto il Monte, Italy, 1881.

Deaths: Heinrich Barth, explorer, Berlin, 1865; Lilian Baylis, founder of the Old Vic, London, 1937.

Model delays

The National Maritime Museum has decided to give model-makers taking part in its third Ship Model Competition more time for constructing their models and put back the awards to the Spring of 1986.

There are four sections in the competition, aimed at encouraging higher standards of ship modelling - sailing vessels, powered vessels, small craft and miniature ships. Full details of the classes and conditions are contained in the entry form obtainable by post from the Department of Ships, National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, London SE10 9NF, or in person from the information desk at the museum (Wet Wing) during normal Museum hours. (the museum is closed on Mondays).

Top films

Top box office films in London:
(1) The Jungle Book/Mickey's Christmas Carol
(2) La Traviata
(3) The Untouchables
(4) Zelig
(5) The Untouchables
(6) The Untouchables
(7) The Untouchables
(8) The Untouchables
(9) The Untouchables
(10) The Untouchables

Top films in the provinces:

1 Blue Thunder
2 National Lampoon's Vacation
3 Private Practice
4 Breathless
5 Monty Python's The Meaning of Life

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Weather forecast

A depression to west of Scotland will move towards the Shetland Isles, while troughs of low pressure cover England and Wales.

6 am to midnight

London, SE England, East Angles, E, W Midlands: A few bright intervals in places at first, but becoming cloudy generally with outbreaks of rain, heavy in places; wind SW, strong, max temp 11 to 12C (52 to 54F).

Scotland: NW England, Cheshire, Lancashire, S, N Wales: Cloudy with hail and rain at times, but becoming cloudy with rain at times; wind SW fresh, max temp 10 to 12C (50 to 54F).

NW, central N England, Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Northern Ireland: Mostly cloudy with rain at times; wind SW fresh or strong; max temp 10 to 12C (50 to 54F).

Shetland: NW England, Cheshire, Lancashire, S, N Wales: Cloudy with hail and rain at times, but becoming cloudy with rain at times; wind SW fresh, max temp 10 to 12C (50 to 54F).

NE, NW Scotland, Argyll, Orkney, Shetland: Rainy, cloudy with outbreaks of rain or drizzle, but also some bright intervals; wind SW fresh; max temp 10 to 12C (50 to 54F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Sunday: cloudy and unsettled with rain at times, but becoming brighter and colder later.

SEA PASSAGES: North Sea: Wind SW fresh or strong, rain at times; sea moderate or rough. Strait of Dover, English Channel: Wind SW fresh or strong, sea moderate or rough. St George's Channel: Wind SW fresh or strong; sea moderate or rough.

Lighting-up time

London 4.30 pm to 7.30 am
Birmingham 4.30 pm to 7.30 am
Manchester 4.30 pm to 7.30 am
Preston 4.30 pm to 7.30 am

Yesterday

Temperatures at midday yesterday: C, cloud; F, rain; S, sun.
Belfast 11.8 F 56.0 C 13.3 C
Birmingham 12.2 F 54.0 C 12.2 C
Blackpool 12.2 F 54.0 C 12.2 C
Bristol 12.2 F 54.0 C 12.2 C
Cardiff 12.2 F 54.0 C 12.2 C
Edinburgh 12.2 F 54.0 C 12.2 C
Glasgow 12.2 F 54.0 C 12.2 C
Liverpool 12.2 F 54.0 C 12.2 C
London 12.2 F 54.0 C 12.2 C
Manchester 12.2 F 54.0 C 12.2 C
Newcastle 12.2 F 54.0 C 12.2 C
Nottingham 12.2 F 54.0 C 12.2 C
Preston 12.2 F 54.0 C 12.2 C
Sheffield 12.2 F 54.0 C 12.2 C
Southampton 12.2 F 54.0 C 12.2 C
Trafalgar 12.2 F 54.0 C 12.2 C
Wolverhampton 12.2 F 54.0 C 12.2 C
York 12.2 F 54.0 C 12.2 C

London

Temperatures: max 8 am to 6 pm, 9C (48F); min 6 pm to 8 am, 3C (37F); humidity 6 pm, 95 per cent. Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, 0.05in. Sun: 24hr to 6 pm, 0.05in. Wind: max 100 mph, gusts 120 mph. Steady, 1000.

Highest and lowest

Yesterday's highest and lowest temperatures: 12C (54F); lowest 3C (37F); highest 12C (54F); lowest 3C (37F); highest 12C (54F); lowest 3C (37F).

NOON TODAY Pressure is shown in millibars FRONTS Warm Cold Occluded

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